

GOSPEL: Mark 5: 21- 43 – 13th ORDINARY SUNDAY – YEAR B – 6/30/2024

When Jesus had crossed again [in the boat] to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, *“My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live.”* He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him.

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, *“If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured.”* Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, *“Who has touched my clothes?”* But his disciples said to him, “You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, *“Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.”*

While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official’s house arrived and said, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?” Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, *“Do not be afraid; just have faith.”*

He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So, he went in and said to them, *“Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep.”*

And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, *“Talitha koum,”* which means, *“Little girl, I say to you, arise!”*

The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. [At that] they were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.

REFLECTION: “FAITH – PATIENCE AND COURAGE” – Msgr. Peter Quang Nguyen

Today’s Gospel tells the story of Jesus going to the house of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue, to heal his daughter and bring her back to life. The story was interrupted by the appearance of a woman with a bleeding disorder who sneaked into the crowd surrounding Jesus to touch him.

Throughout the narrative, the testimony of faith of two characters stands out and Jesus acted to accomplish what they desired because of their faith.

1. Faith and courage.

“Your faith has saved you.” Almost every time Jesus healed someone of their illness, he mentioned the faith that saved them. Faith is the first condition for healing and miracles occur when the recipient believes in the Healer.

A woman with a blood disorder carries both physical illness and mental pain. The body is in pain and dirty, the spirit is suffering from being shunned by everyone for fear of being contaminated according

to the law. Because the book of Leviticus stipulates that anyone with a blood disorder will be considered unclean, anyone who touches them will be unclean, whatever they touch will be unclean, and whoever touches anything unclean will be unclean. If you sit or lie down on something unclean, you are also unclean (see Lv. 15:18-30).

Thus, the person with hemorrhagic fever experiences the end of pain and despair: despair because twelve years of family ruin, despair because the disease cannot be cured, despair because of being excluded from the community. However, the hemorrhagic woman in today's Gospel recklessly overcame all guilt and taboos to touch Jesus.

Indeed, today Jesus was on his way, and the crowd crowded around Jesus, because everyone was afraid of being unclean according to the law, so if an unclean person appeared and mixed in and touched everyone, one person to another, will certainly be condemned to death. But no, because of her faith in the *only One* who could cure her evil disease, the woman recklessly snuck into the crowd to meet Jesus. That belief was even stronger when she thought that just touching the hem of the Lord's garment would cure her, and her faith was rewarded when Jesus discovered her and spoke to her with full words loving sympathy: *"My child, your faith has healed you."*

Thus, faith sometimes requires courage and recklessness, overcoming all guilt and danger to touch Jesus. All of us who want to reach God need courage and daring, especially when we are living in the tragedy of sin, living apart from the community for many years, facing all social obstacles. And even created religion prevents us from coming to God. Have the courage to stand up and quickly run to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to receive God's healing of our soul's wounds and to integrate into the community. Let's run to the Eucharist so that our souls can touch Jesus and the life force from the Eucharist will radiate out to make us strong.

2. Faith and patience.

"Do not be afraid! Just keep believing." Usually, Jesus' healings happened where he was teaching or on a journey, sometimes he healed from afar by saying, *"Go home, your son lives..."*. But today, while Jesus was teaching, Jairus came and begged to heal his daughter at home. Jesus went back home with him. The distance was unknown, but because the crowd followed and jostled, and a woman with a bleeding disorder appeared to 'break up the crowd', before they got there, someone came to report that Jairus's daughter had died. Perhaps at this time the faith of the leader of the synagogue was put to a huge test because Jesus could have come earlier so that *"the patient would not have died if the doctor Jesus had arrived in time."* But Jesus quickly reassured: *"Do not be afraid, have faith!"*. And because of his faith, Jairus' daughter was resurrected by God.

Likewise, the journey of faith for all of us Christians is a long one, sometimes interrupted by many external factors that we cannot foresee, and at times even seem hopeless. . But if we are steadfast like Jairus, we will be saved.

In short, through today's Gospel, God teaches us to always have faith in God despite many difficulties and challenges. Faith is radiant through arduous and long-term purification. Faith requires bold courage and steadfast patience, so that we can reach the ultimate truth, Salvation.

Lord, please give us the courage to follow You amid the painful trials of life. Please also let us know how to often run to the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that God can heal the spiritual diseases in our hearts. Amen.