

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost:**

**Proper 8 Year B**

**RCL**

**June 27, 2021**

Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Psalm 30; Mark 5:21-43

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**“Do not fear, only believe.”**

Twelve weeks have passed since Easter Day, and as we enter the season of summer, we are reminded of the power that Jesus has over death itself.

“Do not fear, only believe.”

Today’s Gospel offers two healing stories where two females are transformed; a little girl 12 years-old and a woman who suffered a hemorrhage for 12 years. Both received reestablishment in society and a new life.

These two stories are about faith and resurrection.

*One of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.*

Jairus’ daughter is at the point of death, the only way for her to be made well is if Jesus lays his hands on her. Jairus knows the delicate state of his daughter

and recognizes that only Jesus has the power to heal her. For this reason, Jairus fell at Jesus' feet and begged him repeatedly.

In the second story, the woman's bleeding will stop only if she is able to touch Jesus' garments.

*She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."*

Again, twelve weeks have passed since Easter Day, and we hear in today's Gospel the deep faith of these people. They were longing and working to touch Jesus, to have a moment with him. Every Sunday, we have the privilege to hear the gospel, to pray and enter in communion with him, and to receive Jesus' Body and Blood. We not only touch Jesus, but we also have the honor to sit at table with him and we are fed by him,

When we see there are people around us that are weeping because they are at the point of death, we realize that the infirmities and illness, unemployment, discrimination, hunger, stress, mental disorders, depression, addictions, and mass shootings are all present. We or someone in our family, or someone in our circle of friends or in our cities are victims of one of these bleedings or one of the many other bleedings in our society. For sure, we need to have faith, we need to touch Jesus garments and the time to do so is now.

"Do not fear, only believe."

The woman who was hemorrhaging has no other way to save her life. She was also at the point of death, since she was bleeding all the time; she was unclean in the male society; and she was condemned to live as a leper outside of the normal life. What is important for us today is to recognize is that even in the

middle of all her pain and rejection, she believes, and she was not afraid to be among the crowd and to risk her own life just to be able to touch Jesus' garments.

Jesus noticed her; she was not invisible anymore. He knew and asks, who touch him, he knew and felt her faith at work, *"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."*

Her faith brings the shalom, the peace, and healing she needed. This encounter changed her life. Years and years of shame, rejection, pain, and illness are immediately over when she met Jesus. This is a constant denominator, all the time people encounter Jesus, they receive healing and salvation.

As Jesus made Jairus' daughter wait for him, there is yet another daughter that needs his time and attention. After touching Jesus, she is a different person.

Each Sunday at Holy Eucharist, we also each have the opportunity to become different people.

What do you need to do to become a better person?

What do you need to do to allow Jesus to stop your bleeding?

Are you willing to touch Jesus?

*"Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?"*

It seems that problems and death always have the last word. *Why trouble the teacher any further?" Why do you need to believe anymore?*

Jesus' answer is what we need to hear to reassure our own faith,

*"Do not fear, only believe."*

He enters the house and tells those who were crying and weeping that the little girl was sleep, and they laughed at him because they did not believe. Those who die are sleeping in God's eyes.

Jesus has the power over death. "Talitha cum, which means, Little girl, get up!", and she did!

*"Do not fear, only believe."*

Easter Day is also today. There are no other answers to the healing we need, Only Jesus, in the same way he calls the little girl from death, he calls us to live in abundance of life. *"Do not fear, only believe."* Amen.