

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

***The Fifth Sunday after Trinity***

**Gospel Reading**

**Mark 5.21-43**

**A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed**

<sup>21</sup> When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. <sup>22</sup> Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet <sup>23</sup> 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.’ <sup>24</sup> So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. <sup>25</sup> Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup> She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> for she said, ‘If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.’ <sup>29</sup> Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup> Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, ‘Who touched my clothes?’ <sup>31</sup> And his disciples said to him, ‘You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, “Who touched me?”’ <sup>32</sup> He looked all round to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.’

<sup>35</sup> While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, ‘Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?’ <sup>36</sup> But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, ‘Do not fear, only believe.’ <sup>37</sup> He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. <sup>38</sup> When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup> When he had entered, he said to them, ‘Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.’ <sup>40</sup> And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and said to her, ‘Talitha cum’, which means, ‘Little girl, get up!’ <sup>42</sup> And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. <sup>43</sup> He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

**Other Readings: 2 Samuel 1.1,17-27**

**Psalm 130**

**2 Corinthians 8.7-15**

**Homily**

How often do we lose contact with friends because we do not make the effort to stay in touch. Surely to maintain a relationship with anyone we need to meet occasionally and talk. Even if

they are far away, we can write, telephone or send an email. If we send a Christmas card it is better than nothing but hardly contact.

When Jesus asks, "Who touched me?" could you honestly say, "It was I, Lord." Do you keep in proper contact with Jesus? When the woman in the gospel reading touched him, power travelled from Jesus to her. Her faith and trust saved her, but how often do we fail to achieve because we go it alone and do not 'touch' base, as it were, with Jesus.

Today, Mark shares with us two sad stories, one of a young girl and the other of an older woman. The young girl it appears is an only child, at 12 a young woman, and a living expression of her parents love but now it seems that that light is about to go out and what darkness must now be surrounding them at the thought that their beautiful daughter, with her life before her, was going to die. The doctors and healers could do nothing so in their desperation they sought out Jesus.

The man was called Jairus, and he was the leader of the synagogue and organised who would take services and preach to the people. He was an important man and respected and of good standing in his community, but now he threw himself at the feet of Jesus, a wandering preacher. Perhaps he wasn't even totally sure about Jesus, most likely prejudiced, but he had heard about what Jesus had done for others and so he put his pride aside and begged repeatedly, saying to Jesus, "My daughter is at the point of death. Come lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." Jesus did not delay and went with him immediately.

But there were so many people following Jesus that they held up his progress because they wanted to see him and hear him and, for some, to be healed themselves. It was a slow journey and then amid all the commotion and with people all around him Jesus suddenly stopped.

Everyone stood still and Jesus turned in a circle and looked at the crowd and asked, "Who touched me?" The disciples said, "Look at the crowd, all pushing against you. Any of them could have touched you!" But Jesus knew that power had gone out of him to someone and that this was not just the touching and swaying of the crowd. So, he asked again, "Who touched me?" and looked intently at the faces in the crowd.

Then the older woman came forward and confessed that it was her that had deliberately reached out and touched him. She suffered from haemorrhages and by rights should not have even been there because contact with her would have rendered others unclean under the law, and she deliberately touched a man, but she was clearly desperate to be healed and thought Jesus would make her well. Which he did, because she felt his power, and he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace you are healed."

You have to be joyful for the women whose faith and trust had been rewarded, but it caused further delay to Jesus as he was going to help Jairus' daughter and while he was there, he was told that the young girl had died.

But Jesus looked at her father and said, "Do not fear, only believe" and when they got to the house the professional mourners were weeping and wailing because the girl was dead, but Jesus said to them, "She is not dead only sleeping," but they didn't believe him and so he put all of them outside except the girl's parents.

Then with Peter, James and John his disciples he went inside and with them around him he said, "Little girl, get up" and immediately with him holding her hand she rose from her bed very much alive and to the joy of her parents and the amazement of the crowd.

Jesus told them to say nothing because the truth about him would be known soon enough, but many already knew that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. They already believed

and had been touched by him and their faith had been rewarded and their lives changed forever.

[Based on Searchlight – All Age Resource: Year B by David Adams]

### **Conversation Questions**

1. How does it make you feel when the relationship that God wants to have with you through his Son is so intimate and personal?
2. Are we sure that we make an effort to make contact with Jesus? Can it be said that we have touched him and he has touched us?
3. Is there anything else from the passage not already discussed that speaks to you? What is it?
4. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today? #everydayfaith

### **Prayer**

Spend some time in prayer, responding to what you have heard today and listening to what God might be saying to you.

### **Collect of the day**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*(or)*

Almighty God,  
send down upon your Church  
the riches of your Spirit,  
and kindle in all who minister the gospel  
your countless gifts of grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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