

Fr. Martin's Reflection – June 30, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The focus of this week's gospel is on the healing of Jairus' daughter and the elderly woman that had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years. We could look at this as Jesus' healing again, but this is more than your everyday healing. When Jesus performed physical healing, it wasn't for the purpose of healing a physical ailment, it was to show the love, power, and or the teaching of God. Girls and women, at the time of Jesus, weren't considered as important as boys and men. If healing was to happen, then the boys and men should be healed first.

For Jesus to heal Jairus' daughter he had to intentionally go out of his way, leave what he was doing and go to his home. While Jesus was on his way to Jairus' home, a woman suffering from hemorrhages, bleeding, approached Jesus to touch him in the belief that he could heal her. By her touching Jesus, and everyone else she touched just to get to Jesus, she made them unclean, leaving them now required to go and purify themselves before they could go home or worship God. Rather than Jesus chastising her for making him unclean, he compliments her on her faith and sends her away healed. While this was happening a messenger from Jairus' home comes and tells him the sad news that his daughter has died. By Jesus going to the home and the room of the dead girl, he was also making himself unclean and unable to perform his religious duties.

On the surface the point of this passage is the joy that the healing brings to the two individuals healed and to their families, but what is the point for us today, 2000 plus years later? Is it not that there is nothing that can keep us from the loving care of God, not even the diseases of this world or death itself? The greatest obstacle to us experiencing the love and care of God is ourselves. We convince ourselves of our own unworthiness or our undesirability or our sinfulness, God couldn't possibly love or care for me. Look at the love of Jairus for his daughter that motivated him to go to Jesus. Look at the woman who had suffered for years and not giving up hope or faith pushed her way to Jesus, not allowing tradition or social laws to prevent her from experiencing the healing love of Jesus. Friends, bring those you love to Jesus. Bring yourself to Jesus. Don't let traditions, social norms and laws be a barrier for you touching and experiencing the healing love of Jesus.

**"If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." "Daughter, your faith has saved you.
Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."**

Farewell to Fr Steve

Today at our 11:30 pm Mass we bid farewell to Fr. Steve as he turns a new page and begins a new chapter in his book of life. May God bless you Fr. Steve in the years ahead. I am hesitant to say retirement, as good men like you rarely retire but just change their approach in doing God's good work. You will be missed by all at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish. You have touched the lives of so many and have fed them with the words and bread of life. Please know you will always have a special place in our hearts and will be forever remembered in our prayers. May the love of God bless you always.

On behalf of myself, Fr. Anson, and all the parish staff, we wish you a happy, healthy and safe 4th of July.

Fr. Martin