



Daily Reflections

July 1, 2018

Scripture

Mark 5: 21-43

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 Jesus,

"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.

Our Scripture Reflection

What a powerful miracle story we have in our Gospel reading today! While so many of the Jewish leaders were opposed to Jesus, one was not. Jairus was

a leader of the synagogue and a powerful man in society. Notice his posture before Jesus...."he fell at His feet". Jairus humbled himself completely before Jesus and demonstrated such a deep-seated faith that Jesus was moved to help him by healing his little girl. People have wondered throughout history how one can acquire a faith like that of Jairus. The answer is simple: become humble. And how does one become humble? I become humble when I acknowledge that I am not God, Jesus is, and I live my life accordingly.

Food for your Journey

God of the day and night, of sunshine, rain, wind, of snow and cloudy days;

God of a cold north wind and a warm summer breeze;

You are above all and in all and beyond all and around all.

God, remind us again that you invite us, everyone, all the time, into a deeper friendship with you.

Sometimes, God, when we don't know what to say or we're so upset we really can't say anything, we come to you.

We come, O God, with good intentions, and we come with uncertainty. We come in prayer with:

petty irritations,

hurt feelings,

broken promises,

pain or sorrow,

or discouragement.

We've come with some broken relationships, and at times, some mean-spiritedness and even anger.

We come overwhelmed, too.

But, Lord, remind us even when we are overwhelmed or discouraged, sad, lonely or depressed, you hear and respond in your way.

Help us to discern your way, to know you are responding.

Guide us and talk to us in ways that we can

hear,

listen

and know you are speaking!

Grant that your love and promises of new beginnings and new opportunities,
and freshness and starting over are more than a wish,

BUT REAL,

right now, in and with your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

--W.D. Taylor

A Prayer from the Heart

Oh Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like Your heart. Amen