

The Healing Power of Christ

Mark 5:21-43

Thirteenth Week of Ordinary Time July 1, 2018

In today's gospel we hear about the healing power of Christ. Jairus says to Jesus, **"My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live."** The woman with a hemorrhage is lost in the midst of a crowd. Her condition, according to scripture scholars, would have isolated her from the larger community. She would have been abandoned as an outcast from the beginning of her illness. She said, **"If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured."**

In both stories, the gift of faith has empowered the grieving and the sick to seek out the living God. Faith has driven the woman out from her seclusion into the world to encounter Christ. Jairus seeks life for his daughter in the presence of Jesus.

The Church, in her wisdom, knows that all of us seek the healing power of Christ at various times in our lives. The sacraments of reconciliation and the sacrament of anointing of the sick provide for the community the real Presence of Christ's healing power.

There have been times in my life when I have felt very alone, even in the gathering of friends or family. There have been times when my own poor choices have isolated me from finding a common ground to re-establish my relationships. In both sacraments, I have sensed the profound sacramental presence of Christ, in the words of absolution and in the healing touch of oil and the laying on of hands.

Like Jairus' daughter and the woman with the hemorrhage, we find our salvation in Christ in the middle of the community. Salvation is not an individual activity. It is designed by God to be a shared experience. We can know Christ through the sign and symbols of our Church and in the gathering of God's Holy People with our priest.

Let us not forget that the healing power of Christ is also present in the Eucharistic celebration of the Mass. The entire point of the Mass is that we come as a broken and sinful people into the real presence of God. We gather with all our good and not-so-good choices. We begin our celebration seeking God's healing mercy and publically declare that we are a sinful people looking for worthiness to consume the bread and wine that have become the healing Body and Blood of Christ.

We seek life in the midst of loss and tragedy. We seek mercy, forgiveness in the aftermath of our selfish decisions that can destroy our most intimate relationships. We seek healing at time of sickness and death. We are Jairus and the woman with a hemorrhage. Our physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual well-being grows in grace when we turn to Christ for our salvation as his people.

Blessings!


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