

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

One Sunday at Mass as the Priest was giving his homily, a little baby in the front row suddenly started crying loudly. The mother did her best to pacify the child, but nothing worked. So finally, she got up and started to walk down the aisle to take the baby into the cry room. The priest stopped his preaching, and very compassionately called out to the mother, *"That's OK! You don't have to leave. The child isn't disturbing me."* The young woman turned around and said, *"No, pardon me Father, but you're disturbing my child!"*

Dear Friends,

This passage we read today is called Marken Sandwich. Mark puts the story sandwich with another story. The first story in the Gospel is the bread and the second one is considered as the meat.

There are two miracles beautifully expressing the faith of those two different people. The gospel today gives two miracles with two beneficiaries of different nature. But both have similar numbers. Daughter of Jairus's age is 12. The women with hemorrhage suffered for 12 years. One believed in Jesus's touch. Another believed in touching Jesus's garments. Mark tells the stories. He doesn't explain anything. The main theme is to have faith in God and in Jesus and in each other.

The contrasts between Jairus and the woman with the hemorrhage are stark and revealing. One is a man; the other is a woman. One is a public official, an important person in the community. The other is a woman who has lost everything to find a cure to a condition that separated her from the community. One approaches Jesus publicly. The other approaches Jesus secretly. Yet in each case, faith leads them to seek out Jesus in their time of need. One thing is sure that both are in desperate need. Jesus helped them in desperate needs. With the crowds Jesus could hear and feel the woman's touch. That's how God care for us.

I have noticed that Mark brought to light about some social issues and in front of God, everything can be resolved. In our culture, even today women in other religion will not go into the temple in particular time, because they were told of impurity. It was there in the Jewish culture. Jesus clears out that she is one among us who needs that healing. Jesus commends her faith calling her daughter, praising her faith and sending her away with in peace and declaring her permanently healed.

Jesus delivers both to new life. Jesus asks us to do the same. Our touch can heal people. Reaching out to people when they are in desperate need is touching their lives. you and I can heal when we have faith.

Jesus appreciates the attitude of their faith. They both believed in Jesus. In our ordinary life, we seek God when we are desperate or when we feel unable. God proves himself that he takes care of us. He said to Jairus not to be afraid. He says the same thing to us not to be afraid. You cannot lock yourself up. You were never meant to be alone. You were meant to be with others. And this is what God teaches. God knows our needs. God loves us. God loves us means He's vulnerable. God wants our companionship. He would never turn a human being away from Him.