

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time -B 2021  
Wis. 1.13-15;2.23-24///2Cor.8.7,9,13-15///Mark 5.21-43

->I have told this story before but it is worth repeating because it speaks clearly to the gospel reading just heard....

->there once was a terrible flood that engulfed a whole rural area....

->in doing so, it stranded an old woman in her house...and as she stood at her kitchen window watching the water rise, a boat appeared...the driver said.... "climb aboard and save yourself."

-> "no thanks," said the woman... "I trust that the Lord is going to save me."

->[and so] the driver shook his head and drove off

->the next day, the flood rose to the second floor of the house....and as the woman stood at the second-floor window watching the water rise...another boat appeared

->the driver said.... "climb aboard and save yourself."

->"no thanks"...said the woman again.... "I am trusting that the Lord is going to save me"

->so again...the driver shook his head and drove off

->the next day the water rose to the roof of the house...and now the woman sat on the roof watching the water....and a helicopter appeared

->the pilot called down over a loudspeaker... "I'll drop a rope ladder to you...climb aboard and save yourself."

->"no thanks," came the reply again... "I trust that the Lord is going to save me."

->the pilot shook his head and flew off

->the next day the flood engulfed the entire house and the woman drowned.

->and when she got to heaven, she said to Saint Peter,

→ “before I go inside, I need to complain about something. ....I trusted that Lord was going to save me from the flood.....and he let me down...and because of that I drowned and so here I am.”

→ Saint Peter gave the woman a puzzled look and said.... “what more did you want the Lord to do...after all....he sent two boats and helicopter [to save you!”]

PAUSE

→[now] perhaps that woman should have paid closer attention to today’s gospel reading...and the two people who are in need of help....

→both characters, Jairus and woman afflicted with the hemorrhage place their complete trust in the Lord...as did the old woman in the flood story

→however...the difference is IN THE LEVEL of trust between the characters in the gospel and the woman in the flood

→in today’s gospel, the woman and Jarius not only trusted in the Lord....but both of them also realized that they had to also **do their part** to obtain the healing that they desired.

→i.o.w....the gospel story reveals to us that the way to life is through faith...not a dead faith which only says “I believe”...but a living faith that is put into action.

→**and that** is the difference between the woman in the flood, and the gospel story...the woman in the flood *forgot* that trusting in God means much more than ONLY expecting God to do his part...

→it also means that *we have to do our part as well* if we want God to act in our lives especially in our times of need.

PAUSE

→[the reality is that]...not one of us is immune from some sort of sickness, sorrow, or separation in our lives.

→we live in a world of uncertainty, where disappointment and trouble, disease and tragedy can come at any time...with death being the grand finale...the end from which none of us can escape...

→and so, as a result....we often spend a lot of energy trying to distance ourselves from sorrow and distress

→so much so and perhaps with not even realizing it....we tend to put those who are suffering at arm's length away

→and the reason for this....is because suffering, and death, and disability can make us painfully aware of JUST HOW FRAGILE HUMAN LIFE ACTUALLY IS

PAUSE

→when we see someone grieving or in pain, it slaps us in the face of just how vulnerable we are...and so, we tend keep our distance...be it physically or through denial....not to be mean or uncaring but because we don't like to be in a position of weakness

→and yet **in** today's gospel reading....just the opposite seems to be happening....

PAUSE

→Jesus spent much of his ministry with the sick, the infirmed, and the dying, and in today's gospel we find him running to the deathbed of a young girl, pausing along the way to cure another women in need

→[and] in both cases.....it was not only trust but.....[the] action....of faith....and belief.... from both the woman and Jarius that helped to bring about the healing they desired.

PAUSE

→ very much like them.....we too, as part of our mission.....have also been called to bring about healing to one another through our actions, our faith...and our belief.

→and the best way to meet this challenge is to realize that none of us are exempt from suffering or tragedy or illness

→as difficult as it may be.....when we recognize that none of us are free or immune from suffering.....

→when we admit that it exists.....facing it head on .....and do what we can to trust more completely in the Lord.....

→it is then that we become the "healers" that Christ is calling us to become

PAUSE

→Jesus did not deny illness...he didn't turn his back or reject or turn people away

→he healed them and took care of them..... not because he had the power to do so...but because they had **the trust, the faith, and the belief** that they could be healed by God...

→[I believe]....the greatest gift God can give us...is the power to bring healing to one another....to help those who are hurting

→as followers of Christ, we believe that healing is part of our mission and part of our lives

→and so.....our task and challenge is not to simply sit by and watch the water continue to rise as did the old woman waiting for God to do something

→but rather our call is to be like Jarius and the woman in the gospel today

...and make sure that by our faith we continue bring healing from God to those who  
need it the most....