

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The gospel first reading and Psalm today are all about the saving power which God extends even beyond death

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

God's love is overflowing and so God created an abundance of life. Death came into the world, not through God, but through the devil's hand.

2 Corinthians 8:7. 9. 13-15

The community of Christians has enjoyed the generosity of Jesus and they should reflect this in the mercy they show others. But in helping others, they should not ignore their own needs.

Mark 5:21-43

During his ministry, Jesus is surrounded by people all the time. But he turns to those in greatest need. His miracles are signs of God's mercy available to us all.



Reflection

Today we are invited to marvel at one of the most dramatic and amazing of the Lord's miracles – the raising to life of the daughter of Jairus. The story is told with a level of emotional realism: the calm faith but dreadful fear of Jairus, the servants who bring the news of his daughter's death, the calm reassurance of Jesus and even the laughter of the people who mock Jesus: all these make this a story that can engage us and speak to us. And, what it says is something profound: that all the miracles of the Lord proclaim the Kingdom of God; the world the way God wants it to be. That God does not want us to die: death is not

part of God's plan for us. That God created us to live forever, and the raising of Jairus' daughter to life is a vivid and outstanding proclamation of this truth.

In the midst of a busy day of ministry, Jesus received two urgent requests for healing, but the calls came in completely different ways.

Jairus, a synagogue official, approached Jesus directly with the plea to come and heal his young daughter who was critically ill. As Jesus set out to respond



to this request, a woman followed him, pushing through the crowds in order to touch the hem of his robe to be healed. Because of her flow of blood, the woman should not have been in the crowd, as she was considered "unclean" and would defile the people (Lv 15:25-33). The woman had spent years looking for a cure to no avail, and in faith-filled desperation she touched the hem of Jesus' garment (the *tzi-tzit* or tassels worn on the hem of a Jew's garment to remind him to keep the covenant commanded in Deut 22:12). A surge of power went out from Jesus and the woman was healed, we're told, instantly. Although the woman was afraid, Jesus assured her that her faith had made her whole.

At that moment, Jesus was informed that Jairus' daughter had died. Jesus told the distraught father not to worry but to put his faith in him. Jesus entered the house where the little girl lay, took her by the hand, and raised her to new life. The child was twelve years old, the marriageable age of a girl at that time, and the same number of years that the woman had been afflicted by a haemorrhage. Jesus restored both to be bearers of new life.

E	S	K	A	L	S	I	D	E	L
T	D	E	R	R	H	A	S	N	C
G	O	I	T	I	U	S	D	S	H
N	N	E	S	G	H	U	A	D	I
I	H	I	H	E	G	R	P	N	L
P	C	T	P	D	K	I	E	A	D
K	E	H	I	E	L	A	E	H	G
R	D	E	I	A	E	J	L	S	I
P	E	E	W	D	F	W	S	E	R
E	A	D	R	E	T	S	A	M	P

LAKESIDE	JAIRUS	DAUGHTER
SICK	HANDS	DEAD
MASTER	FAITH	WEEPING
ASLEEP	CHILD	GIRL

