

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time -B 2018  
Wis. 1.13-15;2.23-24///2Cor.8.7,9,13-15///Mark 5.21-43

→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 more close attention to today’s gospel reading...because today we are provided with a story about two people in need of help...and both characters, Jairus and woman afflicted with the hemorrhage truly place their trust in the Lord...as did the old woman in the flood

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

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

→**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 and 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 to us at any time...and death is the grand finale...the end of which none of us can escape from...

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

→so much so that at times, 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 SHOWS US JUST HOW FRAGILE HUMAN LIFE ACTUALLY IS

PAUSE

→when we see someone grieving or in pain, it shows us how vulnerable we are...and so we will keep our distance...not to be mean or uncaring but because we don't like to be in a position of vulnerability

→and yet in today's gospel reading....we see something very different from running away

→Jesus spent much of his ministry with the sick, the infirmed, 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.....action.....faith....and the belief.... of 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 Christian mission.....have also been called to bring about healing to one another through our actions, our faith...our belief's.

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

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

→it is then we can admit that it exists.....we can face it head on .....and we can do our part to trust more fully 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 on the infirmed or reject or turn them away

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

PAUSE

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

---however it is a gift **that** we can only attain when we, ourselves become no longer afraid of suffering.....when we no longer distance ourselves from the poor and disabled,....when we no longer deny those who grieve or are in pain

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

→and so....our task, our challenge, and our job is not simply to 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 that healing from God happens for those who most need it....