

## Mark 5: 21-43

21 When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. <sup>22</sup>Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet <sup>23</sup>and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.'<sup>24</sup> So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. <sup>26</sup>She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup>for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.'<sup>29</sup> Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup>Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' <sup>31</sup>And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?" ' <sup>32</sup>He looked all round to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

<sup>35</sup> While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' <sup>36</sup>But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.'<sup>37</sup> He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. <sup>38</sup>When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup>When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.'<sup>40</sup> And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' <sup>42</sup>And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. <sup>43</sup>He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

**Commentary:** In this story Jesus heals two people. One is a daughter of an important man in the community. The other is a woman of little account and standing. Jesus is not affected by this external difference. He is impartial in the attention and care he offers. He is not dissuaded by political considerations, appearances, or crowd appeals. In spite of the external differences between the poor woman and the important man, there is something internal that unites them. They have something essential about them that activates Jesus' healing powers: Faith! Jesus cannot heal where there is no faith, no trust, and no openness to who he is and the body/soul transformation he has come to bring.

Faith is also something we are desperately in need of in this season of Covid-19 – faith in the authorities, in medical experts and government directives, faith that we will get through this and find a cure in time... faith. But what about faith in changing what should be changed in our world and in ourselves? Do we believe that's possible? Do we believe in the positive things that can come out of all this for ourselves personally in who we become and how we may engage the world around us beginning with the people closest to us? We need faith more than ever, faith that is grounded in love and care.

**Prayer:** Lord God, I want to believe more fully in what you can do beginning with me. But I must confess my doubts. I want to trust you and be open to what you can do, but there is much in my life that may hinder this from happening more fully. Some things I am aware of, some I am not. I need your vision and your clarity into myself. I need your courage so as not to feel discouraged in my feelings of weakness or inadequacy when it comes to faith. I need your Spirit to inspire greater faith and greater trust within me; Amen.