

Homily For Tuesday of the 4th Week of Ordinary Time- Year 1

St Peter's 8:30am Mass - February 5, 2019

Hebrews 12: 1-4 "Jesus ... endured the cross, disregarding its shame, taking his place (with) God."

Psalms 22: 25-31 "Future generations will ... proclaim (the Lord's) deliverance to a people yet unborn."

Mark 5: 21-43 "She came in fear and trembling, fell down before him and told him the whole truth. "

Your Faith - God's Saving Power

Introduction

We have welcomed back many of our parishioners from a pilgrimage to the holy land. If you ask them what stood out, it won't be long before you hear about Capernaum, Jesus home base during his ministry, and being on the Sea of Galilee. It is powerful when one is there to think of a storm and a boat and Jesus out on the water, and what was Peter doing? He is looking. And what he sees draws out of him the desperate cry of faith: Lord, if it is you, call me out of the boat. And, when Peter got out and was walking on the water, he got into trouble only when he noticed the storm and the waves.

Looking for Jesus (Mark)

In today's gospel, Jesus has just crossed that sea twice. Back on Jewish soil, he meets two distraught and desperate people who are looking for him, and when they see him, their faith draws them to trust him for healing. When Jairus saw Jesus, he had hope for his sick daughter. Jairus was looking for Jesus, and when he found him, he fell at his feet. And, even when Jesus stops to help someone else, he waits and trusts.

That someone else is a woman who had tried every healing possibility that the world had to offer, but she spent all she had and only grew worse. This is not a condemnation of medicine. It is a reminder that, for the person of faith, the deepest and most profound healing comes from God.

I had a conversation with a co worker once, who suggested that, when Jesus says "your faith has made you well", it means that the power to be healed is within us.

That's a popular idea in the culture: you can be and do anything you want if you just believe.

Healing and Integration

This beautiful passage about the woman, who simply touches just the hem of his robe and is healed, is very clear indication that healing power comes from God. Her part was to keep her eyes fixed on him in the crowd. It is also an affirmation that the faith of the sick person is part of the healing. Our faith - God's saving power.

Jesus has power over the forces of nature, of demons and now of illness and even death. He heals on the east side of the lake in non Jewish territory, and on the west side, in Jewish territory. He heals people of high status, like Jairus, and people of almost no status, like the woman.

Enduring To Overcome Sin (Hebrews)

The delay to heal the woman means Jairus daughter has died in the meanwhile. It's always in the darkest moments when God is most able to act. But you have to be looking for it to see what God will do. Unlike Jairus and the woman, everyone else is skeptical. That should make us think of today's being blown by the wind of a lack of faith.

When Jesus said she Sleeping- they laughed at him. In the world that is a reasonable reaction. But then they are overcome with amazement, as if they have seen a great magic trick.

Also, only God can look at our death as a kind of sleeping, because the life to which we hope to be raised is so far about this one that the death at the end of this life is temporary, like sleep.

Agatha

St Agatha had her eyes on Jesus. She understood this sleep of death as the path to eternal life with God. She was martyred in the mid 3rd century, under Emperor Decius. For her - as it says in an ancient reflection - for her, Christ was very

present in her trial. Christ's own death was quite recent to her, his blood still moist. Her robe is the mark of her faithful witness to Christ ... She teaches by example to hasten to the true Good, who is God alone. When she went to prison and to her death, she offered her bitter suffering to God.

Call To Action

Peter, Jairus, a broken woman, you and me. What do we have in common? The invitation to look for Jesus. What are we to do? The book of Hebrews tells us to run the race set before us. In your struggle against sin, you have not resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

1. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, no matter what distress or loss or loneliness or anxiety or illness is going on.
2. Like Jairus, fall down before him. Ask him to heal us. Ask him to heal our friends and family.
3. In faith, get close enough to Jesus to touch the hem of his robe.
4. And again, like the woman, fall down before him in fear and trembling.
5. Finally, join the great cloud of witnesses to God's saving power in Jesus Christ.