

JUNE 27, 2021
Sunday of the 13th Week in OT
Mark 5: 21-43

“DO NOT FEAR, ONLY BELIEVE!”

“Ann Jillian, a three-time Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning actress and singer, is an American actress born to Lithuanian Roman Catholic immigrant parents. She has starred in over 25 TV movies and made hundreds of other TV appearances. Her TV movie, *The Ann Jillian Story*, which recounts her victory over breast cancer, was the #1 film of that TV season, but, more important, it delivered Ann’s message about the hopeful side of breast cancer to its millions of viewers. It was in 1985 that the then 35-year-old actress made headlines when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. On her way to the hospital to check the nature of the growth which she had noticed, she stopped at St. Francis de Sales Church and read the inscription on the door. *“The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.”* She went into the Church and prayed for the strength to accept her ordeal. The radiant trust in God and peace of mind she maintained before and after the surgery (double mastectomy), was big news in the media and a great inspiration for all cancer patients. She trusted in Jesus’ words given in today’s Gospel, “Do not be afraid; just have Faith.” Actually, this phrase is repeated in the Bible 365 times. [Source: www.believersportal.com/list-365-fear-not-bible-verses/].”¹

We have our own struggles, difficulties and problems facing our lives. Mother and father who are desperately need consolation for their son or daughter who are sick and have to undergo surgery and will do everything to make life easy for their children, your husband or your wife who are physically challenged and in pain, and death that occurred in our family or friends. We are experiencing emotional rollercoaster nowadays. In all of these, sometimes we are overwhelmed and put us in the brink of desperation and ask ‘when it well end.?’ Who will help me and who will

¹ www.stories4homilies.co

hug me in this challenging time? “A business executive became depressed. Things were not going well at work, and he was bringing his problems home with him every night. Every evening he would eat his dinner in silence, shutting out his wife and five-year-old daughter. Then he would go into the den and read the paper using the newspaper to wall his family out of his life. After several nights of this, one evening his daughter took her little hand and pushed the newspaper down. She then jumped into her father's lap, wrapped her arms around his neck and hugged him strongly. The father said abruptly, ‘Honey, you are hugging me to death!’ ‘No, Daddy,’ the little girl said, ‘I'm hugging you to life!’ This was the greatness of Jesus. He took people where they were and hugged them to life.”²

Jairus is a father who will do everything for her daughter. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet and begged Jesus to lay His hands on her. So, Jesus went with him but along the way, some people came to him and informed him that his daughter is dead. Jesus assured him: “Do not fear, only believe.”³ From the moment that Jairus asked Jesus to heal his daughter, Jesus journey with him. Jesus stayed with Jairus, Jesus was with Jairus and did not leave him until his daughter was healed and have life. This is our God, this is Jesus. He will always be with us and present in our journey. We are the only one who did not recognize His presence and help because sometimes we are preoccupied with something else, the things we want not what God wants. My brothers and sisters, do we have problems, in difficult situation, worried and fearful? It’s normal but ‘Do not fear, only believe.’ Jesus will send us somebody or give us insights and ideas to solve it, we just need to listen, believe and not afraid. Jesus is with us in this journey of life.

“The waters of the dam had burst their banks, and a veritable tidal wave was heading towards the nearest town. The police drove up the main street, calling on all people to vacate their homes and to avail of the transport provided for a quick exit out of town. One man, who knew about the danger, refused the offer, because he has prayed to God and he felt it was now up to God to take care of him. Shortly afterwards, the waters came roaring down the main street,

² ibid

³ Mark 5: 36 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

and all ground floors were under water. The man was forced to retreat upstairs. He was at a front window when a boat came by, and the people in the boat tried to persuade him to get in the boat and come with them to safety. Once again, the man insisted that God would look after him. After some time the water rose so high that the man was forced to climb up on the roof. Soon a helicopter came along but, once again, he refused the offer of help. Anyhow, surprise! Surprise! The man drowned. He arrived at the gates of heaven in a very angry and aggressive mood and asked Peter, 'What happens when someone like him asks for help.' This puzzled Peter, who explained that, yes, God always answers prayers. He brought out the logbook of prayer, asked the man his name, and began to check the records. After a while he looked at the man, and said, 'Yes, there is a record here of your prayers. What puzzles me, though, is that there is also a record here of several answers to those prayers. It says here that we sent you the police, a group of people in a boat, and we even sent you a helicopter. Whatever happened to all that help? Didn't they show up?'"⁴ My sisters and brothers, He will help us, we just need to approach and ask Jesus of our needs. God will send us the rescue boat, and even a helicopter, to answer our prayers, we just need to be on board and do the best that we can to play a part in solving difficult and challenging situations. 'Do not fear, only believe.'

Let this be our prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, wipe away all my fear and trust You in all my problems and difficulties. May I see and recognize the rescue boat or helicopter You sent me. Little or big help it may be, may I fear not because in You I will be healed and experience joy and contentment. Amen."

⁴ www.stories4homilies.co