

Jairus daughter raised from Dead – 13th Sunday

If you take a walk around any supermarket, you will find shelves full of products to keep us young. (anti-wrinkle creams, energy drinks, vitamin supplements.) Many of the ads we see in the media are related to ways to keep life longer and better appearance. All these give us a message that we can put off death for as long as we want.

Today's reading is taking our reflection to a deeper understanding of life and death. While this subject affects every living being, paradoxically we find that today's society find it difficult to accept the reality death, in spite of its inevitability. Death raises the question about the meaning of human life. Is death merely the dissolution of the physical body? Or is it a greater reality?

In this context our first reading tells us: "righteousness is immortal, for God created us for incorruption and made us in the image of His eternity". My spiritual director used to say: '*God does not create junk*'. Our God is a God of life, and it is His will that we should live our life to the fullest, to eternity. Being most important creation of God, we are called to love ourselves and love others. Each one of us has been specially created by God, just the He wanted us to be, and therefore we need to find our original selves.

When we speak about the reality of physical death, there is also the reality of spiritual death, which is brought about by being alienated from God through sin. The goodness in God's creation was corrupted by Satan's jealousy. Those who live in sin are unable to surrender and trust the love of God, and they tend to see death as the end.

In today's gospel, we see Mark's story of Jesus healing two women: the daughter of Jairus, and the woman suffering from hemorrhage.

It was American writer Stephen Gaskin, who said: “*touch is the first language we spoke*”. Touch is also the easiest language we can use to talk to any beings. The woman suffering from hemorrhage obtained healing by touching the cloak of Jesus.

Both narratives are rich in human emotions, especially the most prominent emotion of desperation. Both women were desperately seeking help. It is in this desperation that they reach out to Jesus. It is often said that we pray best when we are desperate, and this desperation is what causes a miracle.

The other emotion highlighted here is the compassion of Jesus. In both cases we see Jesus who cares. He does not abandon us in our suffering but stands by us and suffers with us. Both women were healed, by being restored to life. Jesus raising Jairus’ daughter is a foreshadowing of Jesus’ gift of eternal life. In Christ, the power of death is broken, and we embrace the power to live, unbound by death. Ultimately, it is this hope of eternity that brings meaning into human life.

Jesus grants life-changing healing. It’s a healing that crosses all boundaries. The question for us today is, can we bring healing into troubled circumstances, into the life of others? How many lives we have touched in our life? To do this, we need to be generous; generous not only with our wallets but also with our precious time and energy. Amen.