

February 4, 2025

Daily Reflections



THE HEALING POWER OF JESUS!

By Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live." He went off with him and a large crowd followed him.

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. ... She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."

While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" ... Jesus went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." ... He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha kum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around.

MARK 5:21-43

Reflection

Jesus' public ministry was all about teaching and healing. In today's gospel we have two dramatic scenes and in the first one, Jesus heals Jairus' daughter whom all feared had died. In addition, we have the second healing story of the woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. Her faith in Jesus' ability to heal empowered her to merely touch the hem of his cloak, confident she would be healed.

Both Jairus and this woman acted out of a deep place of faith and belief in Jesus' healing power. When I read passages like these, I often wonder how I would have acted if I were Jairus or this woman so afflicted with pain. I hope my faith is as strong as both this man's and this woman's.

At the same time, I can pose this question to myself now: how often do I pray for healing in body, mind, or spirit? How often do I ask others to pray with me and turn to God in faith? These are important questions because scripture ought to touch our lives, our very being, each time we break open God's Word.

Healer God

Like Jairus, may we not hesitate to come before you, O healer God, and ask for what we need. Let our faith compel us to pray for the healing of others as we are all part of the body of Christ.

Like the woman with a hemorrhage, may we patiently await the healing for which we pray. For twelve years is a long time to suffer, and yet, her faith moved her into action when she encountered Jesus. Let us go and do the same.

O Healer God, we pray in gratitude for your Son, Jesus, and his presence among us. May we walk in his footsteps in the ministries of teaching and healing, calling upon the grace we need to be your faithful servants.



The Healing of a Bleeding Woman - from the Catacombs of Marcellinus and Peter

For Pondering

- Which healing story (Jairus' daughter or the hemorrhaging woman) captures your imagination? Why? How do these stories impact your own faith and trust in the healing power of God?

- In your own life, how have you encountered God's healing presence? Perhaps you were healed or someone you love was healed. How did this inform your own understanding of God's healing power?
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For Prayer

*O gentle Healer,
we lift up in prayer all those who suffer
from disease, abuse, and violence of any kind.
May your tender love alight within each of them.
May we seek out ways to be a presence of comfort and help
in the lives of all our brothers and sisters who suffer.
Amen.*

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