

Sermon for Sunday, June 27, 2021 – The Rev. Rohani Weger

Proper 8B

Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. The crowd, full of expectation, lets him through. Was there going to be a theological showdown?

But no, Jairus is not interested in talking theology today. He comes and kneels before Jesus. What good is his reputation and prestige when his only daughter is sick. He needs God in a personal way –he needs God with skin on!

Compare that to the nameless woman. She once had money but that had all gone to doctors. Due to the Old Testament purity laws, her illness had separated her from society for twelve years. She was considered “unclean” She had no reputation to lose. The crowd doesn’t part for her. Instead people glare and say “Hey, don’t touch me!”

But she doesn’t care what people think. She knows she needs God too –if only it could be impersonal as possible, –just reaching out to touch his cloak... perhaps she would be healed.

A quick sidenote – the tassels on Jesus’ robe were actually suppose to be reminders of God’s law and to touch them while impure would have been a sacrilege. But to this woman, they were the closest thing she could reach.

Jairus knew through his studies what the nameless woman hoped through desperation: that while all of creation had been formed by the words of God, only humans had been created through touch; created by God's own hand. And Jairus hoped, that through Jesus, his daughter would be “recreated”, restored to the life by the power that created Eden.

- And the woman hoped that He who said he had completed the law could complete her **and heal her**.
- in a way that the law could not do.

Jesus stops— aware power had gone forth from him. Here is one of those rare moments when the Spirit works separately from Jesus. But Jesus is in tune enough to recognize when God says stop, even when the most important man in town wants him to hurry.

- (“Come on, Jesus,” the disciples say. “**Don’t get distracted at a time like this!**”

But Jesus stops.. He knows this unknown person also needs “God with skin on.”

The woman's **body** was healed when she touched Jesus’ mantle. But she needed something more. She needed to know that was not the "magic" of the clothing of Jesus – but her faith. She needed to know that she, too, was a daughter of God and that God was **pleased** to heal her. And so Jesus stops and calls her forward. – In his blessing, Jesus alleviates her guilt. He also restores her reputation. She would now be known as someone that Jesus had healed.

But during this moment of compassion and mercy, the girl whom Jesus had been summoned to heal has died. The news of his death is abrupt and to the point: “**Your daughter is dead. There’s no use troubling the Teacher now.**”¹

¹ Mark 5:35

Jesus , ignoring them, told Jairus **-do not be afraid, just have faith.**».²

Just have faith? His daughter is dead. He knew Jesus' touch could heal, but surely it could not **restore** life! do not be afraid, **just have faith.**».³

Have Faith in what?

Jesus however has a different perspective: he is **astonished** when he comes into the House - “Why all this commotion and weeping?⁴ When he mocked death, saying the girl was only sleeping, they laughed at him. Nobody wanted to be bothered with what he has to say — Jesus, the girl is dead! Say a prayer for the family and move on to the next village!

But Jesus does not leave... He reaches out to touch the girl's hand. And in that brief caress, life flowed through him and into her.**Immediately**, - just as he had cured the lepers (and those with demons)

In that moment (**without waiting;**) **Now!**

Jesus has power over death because to Jesus death is meaningless; for God can wake the dead as easily as one can wake a child from sleep.

From God's perspective the girl who had died was already resurrected. For what is time to God? Absolutely nothing. As Christ said to the thief on the cross **"today** you will be with me in Paradise" - “not tomorrow (**not some future date**) but rather today: now!

² Mark 5:36

³ Mark 5:36

^MMark 5:39

I can not bring a child to life - or anyone else. And it is so hard to lose someone we love to death. **but** we also know that they are alive in Christ. Even as we say our goodbyes, they are in fact risen, now! It is the "now" of God that allows you to say with St. Paul: "O death where your sting?"

Jairus did not know this; but we know it. Time means nothing to God; the resurrection is an ongoing process within the sacred time, ([divine time.](#))

And we are here as a body, ([as a family](#)) to remind each other Jesus brings resurrection and life.

¡God still wants to be "present with skin on" - through us!

May we be as aware as Jesus of those times when God wants us to stop. Stop and realize God is working. Stop and bring God's grace in unexpected places. And don't worry about Jairus wanting you to hurry - God will take care of him

too! 😊