

5TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY: PROPER 8

07/01/18

Mount Calvary, West View

LAMENTATIONS 3: 22-33, II CORINTHIANS 8: 1-15, MARK 5: 21-34

HYMNS: LET US ALL WITH GLADSOME VOICE LSB #390,

LORD, TAKE MY HAND AND LEAD ME LSB #722

HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS LSB #524

Theme: See? He Still Cares!

+ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and

Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +

Our Text is from St. Mark's Gospel, the 5th Chapter:

While He was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

What we have here is a continuation of last Sunday's text — not because of verse continuity, but because of theme carryover. You see, last Sunday we talked about Jesus caring about you and taking care of you in the storms of life, but that was with a group of people — the congregation and Christianity as a whole. Of course, Jesus and the Holy Ghost take care of the Church at large during times of trouble, persecutions, and turmoil, but does God really care about you, the individual? Here we see Jesus taking care of you as an individual.

To begin our meditation on the caring of Jesus, we are met with Jairus, a synagogue

ruler. He has a simple request of Jesus, *“My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.”* Two things: First, here is a faithful man, who knew where to turn to receive what he needed for himself and his family — he turned to God. This was the same response of the disciples last Sunday. Second, he comes humbly and asking for help. Luther talks about this in the understanding of the Lord's Prayer: *God would by these words tenderly invite us to believe that He is our True Father, and we are His true children, so that we may with all boldness and confidence ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.* This is different from the disciples last week. They demanded that God, Jesus, do something by implication of the accusation that He prove that He cares. Jairus, a powerful man, comes begging. No doubt you are reminded of another great Luther quote, *“We are beggars, that is true.”*

Everything we get from God, we essentially beg for. We need it, we desire it, and we cannot get it ourselves, therefore we beg of God, asking for mercy. Whether it be food, clothing, shelter, all the raw materials come from God, not us. If He were to stop allowing it to be accessible, we would be in a world of hurt, but God does care about us and provides for all that we need to support this body and life. Yet, not only earthly things but also spiritual things. We beg for mercy at God's throne that He would not remove us because of our many sins but would still grant us all things by His care and concern for us — all by His great mercy.

So Jairus, the ruler, humbles himself before the Son of God, Who is willing to go to the house and do this thing that is respectfully asked of Him. Along the way, there is a

selfish woman, who demands from God to be healed from her bleeding. How dare I say this? Well, did she ask? Did she bow down before the Great Physician and ask of His mercy? I do not see her doing these things. I see her demanding and taking from God what she wants.

Actually, I do not see that at all, but some people do. What I see here is the same thing as I see in the disciples and in Jairus — a desperate person looking for a desperate answer to a desperate condition. For the disciples, it was their doom in a sinking boat; for Jairus, his family's doom at the loss of one of their younger members; for this woman, her doom in being so afflicted for the rest of her life. But was it a real doom? She was not dying, like the daughter is. Is not Jairus' request more important than this poor woman? We should be putting the needs of others above our own, yes? She may feel that her problem is miniscule in comparison to others, and not worth upsetting Jesus' path to Jairus' house to cure a dying young girl. Hence the desire to simply touch the hem of Jesus' garment and not bother Him and she will be healed. In this light, might we surmise that she is even more humble than Jairus in approaching Jesus? She may not have asked, but she had great faith that in spite of her lonely condition that affects no one but herself, God could still heal her because of His great love for her. So, through faith in His Son Jesus, by touching His garment, she is healed.

But Jesus is inconvenienced and stopped in His tracks. He seems to angrily demand that the person who made the miracle leave His body come forth and be counted. How embarrassing, humiliating, and wasting precious time to heal Jairus' daughter! Yet

there was a reason ô Jesus was not angry, but wanted this woman and all the other people, including Jairus, to understand that the reason this woman was healed was NOT because she did something, but because of the great faith that God gave her to believe that this miracle would come about, and that Jesus would save her personally. This is the real difference between all the players in these two texts, Last Sunday and this Sunday - The real difference between the Disciples, Jairus, and this poor woman, is faith. The disciples collectively: no faith. Jairus: some faith to come to Jesus, but despaired upon hearing that his daughter is dead. Let us call this a little faith. The poor woman: she had great faith. It seems that the poor woman was not really poor at all but extremely rich in faith. Faith is a funny thing. No matter how much or little you have, just the mere presence of it makes God an old softy and will do whatever is asked of Him. Some non-Christians see this as a sign of weakness, but we see it as a sign of God's great mercy and care for us, that He wants to do what we ask, and will do what we ask by faith. Faith is the trust that God will do what is asked, and the Holy Ghost gives us such faith so even in the asking God is doing all the work, and you are reaping the benefits of it. What a great God we have!

There is something else going on in our text here too ô time. The disciples were running out of time, as was Jairus for his daughter's life. But for this woman, she was not under a real time constraint, but has been suffering for a very long time. Time matters not for God. Whether you have been undergoing trials for a long time period like the woman, or in the midst of it like the disciples, or just started on as when Jairus heard that His daughter was dead, Jesus works immediately. Jesus calmed the storm instantly. Jesus

cured the woman instantly. Jairus' daughter? He seems to drag His feet greatly at poor Jairus' request. The girl dies before Jesus gets there! Why would God allow such horrible things to happen? So that the glory of the Lord may be made manifest.

The Disciples endured the storm, so that they could see that God is the God who cares about them and also controls the storm. The Woman endured many years of bleeding so that God could heal her at this time and thereby makes the healing known to those around her to tell them that God cares for us as individuals; He heals us and is the God over flesh and blood as well as natural storms. But for Jairus, and for Mary and Martha, and for the widow of Nain, they all endured the loss of a loved one in order that Jesus would manifest the greatest gift we all have ô the God of Life, Who gives life, sustains life, heals life, and most importantly, raises that body from the dead. He is not a God of the dead but of the Living! Sin caused death, but that does not stop God! He overcomes death: first by showing Jairus, and the others present at his daughter's rising; then by going to the cross, dying on the cursed tree, that you and I may have life through the forgiveness of ALL sins by His death, and then the greatest miracle and gift of all, rose from the grave with His body and declared for us once and for all that we are saved individually, and corporately in the Church universal ó all by Faith.

I know this sounds like a broken record, but faith hinges on this point alone: That Jesus Christ has died for your sins, has risen from the dead, and though faith in this understanding of the work of the Second Person of the Trinity, you have all that you need, both physically and spiritually. So, you have been suffering for quite some time; God

knows and God will take care, in His time in His way. Sometimes death is the way God will manifest His Salvation, as in Jairus daughter, or in the release of a very sick loved one. But no matter what God does, He does it because He cares about you and wants you to understand His great love for you through the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit keeps you in this one true faith and makes you to realize that the Heavenly father does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men, nor will He give you anything beyond what you can handle through Him for in Him I endure all things. May you endure all things through Him knowing that you are forgiven and loved by Him Who cares about and for you. In our Triune God's Name we pray. **AMEN.**

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL
UNDERSTANDING KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH
CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AMEN+

**There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of
judgment**