



13th Week of Ordinary Time: 27th /28th June 2021

Reflection on the Gospel for the 13th Sunday Year B

Reflection / Homily – Mgr Daniel McHugh

“You have the message of eternal life”

(Words in the Alleluia verse)

I remember stories going around in my Seminary days that those in the Communist Party in Italy, though avowedly Atheist, would in fact take their children quietly for Baptism. I thought of this as I read the Gospel for today, and the woman saying “even if I touch his cloak, I shall be well again”. And, Jesus responding to her Faith: “my daughter, your faith has restored you to health; go in peace and be free from your complaint”. Her Faith in Him is what strikes you, and Jesus, though He had not seen who she was at first, knew “power had gone out of Him.” Those of us who place our trust in Him are never disappointed.

The hymn I chose for the Burning Bush VLOG prepared by a small team and placed on the Internet each week to enable people who want to pause for 10 minutes’ reflection inspired by the Sunday Gospel is:

*“Reach out and touch the Lord
as he goes by
You’ll find he’s not too busy
to hear your heart’s cry.
He’s passing by this moment
your needs to supply
Reach out and touch the Lord
as he goes by.”*

Like the woman who touched the fringe of His cloak believing even that would bring healing was right. And, there is that need to make physical contact that is there in the Water of New Life in Baptism and the Holy Water we normally take to renew the that touch as we come into Church. People cherish and reach out to a Bible, or a Cross, a Medal or Blessed Picture because they believe their prayer will be rewarded with His power flowing to them.

The other miracle given in the Gospel Passage for today is about the healing of the daughter of Jairus, a Synagogue Official. Again, it is his Faith that strikes you: this time the prayer is not for his own healing, but that of his daughter, who is restored to life by Jesus. I was led to reflect on the Funeral Services that I am privileged to lead: sometimes we Priests are a bit concerned about the “tone”, shall we say, of the services. In the Gospel there is a great deal of commotion going on at the home of the Synagogue Official. People were “weeping and wailing unrestrainedly”. We can all recall a much more sombre and almost depressing feeling generated in the past. Today the services are

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more joyful, more celebratory - almost forgetting that everyone needs Jesus to take us by the hand and lead us to the new life he offers, the new life that little girl was given in the Gospel. It is a question of balance I think with our Funeral Services. Jesus needs to be involved and asked to be present, to say those words “Talitha, Kum”; the Synagogue Official is an example of that Faith in Jesus that the woman has in the other miracle of the 13th Sunday Gospel.

An interesting but brief mention is made of the fact that Jesus, referring to the healing of the young girl, “ordered them strictly not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.” Sometimes it is said Jesus didn’t want people to misunderstand His Mission, and was concerned that the “earthly king” the Jews were looking for might dominate their thinking, rather than the spiritual kingdom he was offering each person. I am sure that was His concern, and the question we are each to answer for ourselves at the end of this Sunday’s Gospel is: “Who is Jesus for me? When I turn to Him in Faith for what I need, have I the trust of the woman who wanted His healing in her own life or the trust of the Synagogue Official who wanted it for his daughter?” The Saint I reflected on in the Podcast this week St Etheldreda of Ely, had a rich Royal life before her, but chose to follow Him for herself and for others.

Lord, increase our Faith: “You have the message of eternal life.”

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