

## Trust Me WEEK THREE June 27, 2021

When it comes to the pandemic,  
I think it's fair to say that we've sailed into uncharted waters.  
We all want to know what the future will look like.  
Restrictions have eased,  
most things have opened up,  
but there's still so much uncertainty and lots of unknowns.  
After a pandemic that's lasted 15 months, I guess this is to be expected.  
Take church for example.  
Our weekend Mass attendance is only about a third  
of what it was before Covid.  
Just one third.

It is great when someone does return to Mass for the first time.  
They say how good it feels to be back.  
Last week a woman came up with tears in her eyes and said,  
*"I've been watching your Mass online for the past year,  
but I missed seeing you in 3D!"*

I think what she was also saying is that she  
missed being physically present with God and others.  
There's a power in the physical gathering of  
the Body of Christ that nothing can replace.

### **SCREEN: Trust Me main screen**

We've come to the final week of our message series titled, Trust Me.  
The scripture readings have reminded us that God has a plan  
for every single person - a plan for you and a plan for me.  
It takes incredible trust to believe that.  
And greater trust to live our lives according to God's plan.  
In today's Gospel reading we heard about two individuals who  
greatly desired to be with Christ.  
They had complete trust in his power to help them.  
Let's see what happened.

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Usually at Mass we might get one story of Jesus performing a miracle, but today we were treated to a two-fer.

Now, to set the scene, remember last weekend we heard that Jesus was in a boat with his Apostles and he calmed the storm. After that, Mark's Gospel says that Jesus healed a man possessed by demons. Then we come to today's passage.

So, a large crowd is following Jesus because word has spread about all the signs he's performing.

And naturally, some of those in the crowd are thinking to themselves, *"if Jesus could heal that person, maybe he can help me!"*

The first person in our story who approached Jesus was a man named Jairus - a synagogue official.

Don't let that small detail about Jairus slip past you.

Most Jewish leaders wanted nothing to do with Jesus.

They saw him as a threat to their power and authority.

Why was Jairus different?

His 12 year old daughter was dying.

He was desperate - he'd run out of options - he was willing to do anything to save his child.

What parent wouldn't?

He pleaded with Jesus to come and lay hands on his daughter that she might get well.

Jesus agreed and they set out, with that large crowd pressing against them.

Including a woman who had been afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years.

She came up behind Jesus and touched his cloak, saying to herself:

**SCREEN: "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured."**

And she was.

Immediately her flow of blood dried up.

She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Jesus turned to her and acknowledged her great faith.

Meanwhile, people from Jairus's home arrived to say that his daughter had died.

And upon hearing the news, Jesus said this to Jairus:

**SCREEN: Do not be afraid; just have faith.**

*Do not be afraid; just have faith.*

To a father who'd just been told his daughter has died,  
this must have sounded like a strange thing for Jesus to say.

I can imagine Jairus thinking,

*"Of course I have faith! That's why I came to you.*

*I had faith that you could save my daughter.*

*I had trust in you. But now she's dead."*

What Jesus told Jairus sounds simplistic, perhaps naive.

But Jesus knew what he was going to do.

He had a plan for Jairus's daughter  
and bad news was not going to put him off his plan.

Jesus went to the girl's bedside and brought her back to life.

*Do not be afraid; just have faith.*

These words which Jesus spoke to Jairus are meant for us too.

It's Jesus saying that we don't have to be afraid, we can trust him.

He has a plan for each of us and the power to see it through.

So we need to trust and believe.

I know that some of you have faced a situation  
just like Jairus or the woman in the story.

You or your loved one has been at the point of death  
and you've prayed to God for a miracle.

Maybe like the woman in the story,  
you've struggled for years with a problem that never gets better.

Maybe you doubt that Jesus will answer your prayer.

Here's what I'd say.

What the raising of Jairus's daughter teaches is that  
sometimes God hears our prayers and responds immediately.

But the answer God gives might not be the exact one you want.

Think of it: Jairus wanted Jesus to heal his daughter *before she died*.

Instead, he had to grieve her death,

and then came the miracle.

With the woman who was healed,

her answer to prayer didn't come *for twelve years*.

Twelve years of constant pain, doctor visits, depleted savings, and endless prayers.

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What the people in the Gospel today teach us is the importance of making our needs known to God and being persistent in prayer.

But at the same time, we have to acknowledge that

Jesus didn't heal every sick person, and he didn't raise every dead person.

And we don't know why some get the answer they want and others don't.

God's ways are mysterious.

We heard that back on week one of this series with the parables about the seeds that Jesus told.

When you are facing a big crisis and praying to God for a miracle, it can be hard to accept that God's answer to you might be,

'Not yet, 'Not in the way you want', or even 'No'.

That's when your trust in God is tested.

What I do know is that everyone is going through something.

Everyone.

I am, you are, every person you and I know is going through something.

It could be an immediate crisis or something long term.

It could be a past hurt that hasn't completely healed.

*Everyone is going through something.*

Like Jairus and like the woman in the Gospel,

God wants you to turn to Jesus with whatever you are going through.

God has a plan and God is with you.

So trust in God to do what is best for you and the people in your life and give God your pain, your hurt.

Make an act of trust and surrender asking God to help you.

When you came into church today, a host team member gave you a slip of paper and a pencil.

I want to invite you to take a moment now and write down a word or phrase that describes whatever you need to surrender to Christ.

Don't put your name on it, no one will see it but you.

Just a word or phrase.

Maybe you need to surrender your doubt, or your fear, or your hurt, or your anger.

Whatever it is.

*(And if you are worshipping with us online, you'll see a link in the chat feature now so you can enter your response as a prayer request.)*

After giving you a moment, I'll ask the host team members

to collect all the papers and place them in this bowl in front of the altar.

So take a moment now to write down anything you want to surrender to God.

*(wait for one minute)*

Host team members, please come forward

to collect the papers and bring them to the altar. *(wait)*

I want to thank you for the act of trust you just made.

And I want to encourage you to do this everyday or anytime you feel yourself hurting.

Surrender to God again.

Because sometimes the tendency is to give a problem to God, then take it back.

We get impatient or decide God didn't give what we wanted.

Keep surrendering, keep believing in the power of God and and keep trusting in Christ's love for you. Amen. +