

## 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

You know, we have to go to school a long time to become priests. After college, its four more years of graduate studies, and during those four years, nearly every semester, we have some sort of scripture class, whether it be on specific books and authors, or about more general interpretation and exegesis. And we learn a lot of technical jargon for various literary genres and devices.

For instance, in today's Gospel, we have an example of one of those devices. We are told the story of Jairus' daughter. Now, the story is introduced, and the stage is set with all of the characters. But then, in the middle of it... we get another story, that of the hemorrhaging woman, cured by touching the hem of Jesus' robe. Then the story of Jairus is finished and resolved.

So, we have one story... in 2 parts, with another story stuck in the middle. And the highly technical term for that literary device is... A Sandwich.

Like I said...very technical.

A sandwich is two separate things—the bread on the one hand and the meat on the other—but together they make a more appetizing whole. So, let's look at the Gospel for today as a sandwich.

We have Jairus, the prominent synagogue official falling at Jesus' feet and begging him to come lay hands on his daughter... to touch her... that she might get well... and live.

Then, we have the afflicted woman touching Jesus, and once she's found out, she falls down before him, trembling.... Begging for forgiveness.

She's been hemorrhaging for 12 years. She must have been prominent at one time, because she could afford doctors, but they've drained her money as the hemorrhage has drained her life-blood.. So, now she's broke and desperate, and also, in the Jewish law, a bleeding woman is UNCLEAN---she's about as low as you can go, but touching Jesus heals her. And he tells her, "Daughter, he calls her daughter, "Your FAITH has SAVED you!" She reached out in Faith and touched Jesus and was Saved.

And now, to continue with the original story... people arrive from Jairus' house with the report that his daughter has died—why trouble the teacher further? But what does Jesus tell him? "Do not be Afraid--- Just Have Faith." Then he goes to the girl, to the ridicule of all and takes

her by the hand. He touches her—now if the bleeding woman was unclean, the dead are the most defiling of all, but Jesus does not care. He touches the girl, who is twelve... interesting, she has been alive as long as the other woman has been bleeding and tells her ARISE. Not just get up, or wake up, ....But Resurrect. And she does so.

So... Why is the story of the woman who has been hemorrhaging for 12 years, who Jesus calls daughter and is cured by touching Jesus' cloak... sandwiched between the story of Jairus daughter, who is 12 years old and is cured by Jesus touching her????

Well, you can see many things, which tie the stories together, and I've only pointed out a few of those, but I think the most important one is ... FAITH. Jairus came to Jesus in Faith, confident that he could cure his daughter... but did he have enough Faith to think that he could raise her from the dead? He may have been left in despair by the news of her death, if he weren't strengthened by the actual eye-witness of the power of FAITH in Jesus as displayed by the bleeding woman. Seeing her faith, gave him the faith he needed to follow through.

And how about us?

As the first reading from Wisdom tells us, we were not meant for earth, we were formed imperishable, But by the envy of the Devil, death entered the World.

So do we have enough Faith to save ourselves, As Jesus told the woman her Faith Saved Her?

Don't be afraid to reach out and grab ahold of JESUS'S Robe.