



7th Sunday of Luke

The Reading is from Luke 8:41-56

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased.

And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well."

And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal of the First Tone

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate * with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born * for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. * For in His goodness He was pleased * to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, * and to raise up those who had died, * by His glorious Resurrection.

For the Angels

O Chief Commanders of the heavenly armies, * we the unworthy now entreat you in earnest, * to fortify us by your supplications to the Lord, * and shelter us beneath the wings of your spiritual glory, * guarding us who run to you and fervently entreat you: * As the Commanders of the hosts on high, * rescue us faithful from dangers of every kind.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

Today, the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

Discussion

Desperation can force us to do things, can't it?

Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue (whose name is recorded by Luke), is forced to have faith that Jesus can heal his daughter. As St. Theophylactos points out, Jairus makes this choice even though he should have shown faith and reverence for Jesus because He is God. In His mercy, Jesus agrees to go with Jairus.

As they go, a woman shows a different kind of faith. So great is her belief that only a touch of Jesus' garment will cure her that she risks breaking the Hebrew law that sick people are not to come in contact healthy ones. Because He is God, Jesus knows the woman's heart, blesses her with healing, and then humbly declares, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." (Similar verses from Mark's Gospel are read on feast days for women saints. The woman, St. Veronica, is remembered as a saint of our church.)

Then the news comes from Jairus' house about his daughter's apparent death. "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more."

I think we hear similar comments from many people today. "She's dead, why bother with a funeral, just cremate her and be done with it." "She's dead, no one can help her now. Why do you have memorial services and prayers for the dead?" "Why trouble the Lord any more about the dead?"

Jesus encouraged Jairus. Jesus comforted Jairus and gave him hope with those words, "Don't be afraid, only believe and she will be made well." That is our response to death. We believe God loves us and works for our good. It is OK to believe in the God who takes care of the dead. It is OK to pray for those already dead, because the scripture every where testifies to us that they are alive in Christ. They are asleep in the Lord, but it is a gentle sleep from which Christ awakes them. They do not cease to exist, but rest in God. When Christ confronted death in his friend Lazarus, in Jairus' daughter, in the widow of Nain's son, he awoke the dead as if they were only asleep. He easily overcame the finality of death.

St. John of Kronstadt says it is those who make idols of their lives, of their food, of their money and possessions and egos who find death so hard to accept. When we overcome these thoughts through repentance and the spiritual life, we find we can trust Christ, and not weep or fear death. In Christ, we overcome death with eternal life.

Nothing is impossible for the Lord Jesus Christ. He even overcomes the sting and finality of death. Ephesians 2:5: "*even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).*"

May we always remember to keep our faith, no matter what. God is not an insurance policy to be pulled out only when tragedy strikes. He is always with us, encouraging and loving us.

Here's a link to the Be the Bee video with good words about faith:

<https://www.goarch.org/-/be-the-bee-140-does-god-promise-happiness-with-hank-hanegraaff?inheritRedirect=true>