



The Holy See

POPE FRANCIS

ANGELUS

Saint Peter's Square

Sunday, 1 July 2018

[Multimedia]

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

This Sunday's Gospel passage (cf. Mk 5:21-43) presents two miracles performed by Jesus, almost describing them as a type of triumphal march toward life. Initially the Evangelist speaks about a certain Jairus, one of the rulers of the Synagogue, who approaches Jesus and beseeches Him to go to his home because his 12-year-old daughter is dying. Jesus agrees and goes with him; but, along the way, word arrives that the girl is dead. We can imagine that father's reaction. But Jesus says to him: "Do not fear, only believe" (36). When they arrive at Jairus' house, Jesus sends out the people who were weeping — there were also women mourners who were wailing loudly — and He enters the room with just the parents and the three disciples, and speaking to the dead girl He says: "Little girl, I say to you, arise" (v. 41). And immediately the girl gets up, as if waking from a deep sleep (cf. v. 42).

Within the narrative of this miracle, Mark adds another: the healing of a woman who suffers from a haemorrhage and is healed as soon as she touches Jesus' garment (cf. v. 27). Here what is striking is the fact that this woman's faith attracts — to me the word "robs" comes to mind — the divine saving power that is in Christ, who, feeling that "power had gone forth from him", tried to understand who it was. And when the woman, with much shame, comes forward and confesses the whole truth, He tells her: "Daughter, *your faith* has made you well" (v. 34).

It is a matter of two interlocking narratives, with a single core: *faith*; and they show Jesus as the wellspring of life, as the One who restores life to those who trust fully in him. The two protagonists,

that is, the little girl's father and the sick woman, are not disciples of Jesus yet they are satisfied through their faith. They have faith in that man. From this we understand that all are permitted on the Lord's path: no one should feel as an intruder, an interloper or one who has no right. To have access to His heart, to Jesus' heart, there is only one requirement: to feel in need of healing and to entrust yourself to Him. I ask you: do each of you feel that you need to be healed? Of something, of some sin, of some problem? And, if you feel this, do you have faith in Jesus? These are the two requirements in order to be healed, in order to have access to his heart: to feel in need of healing and to entrust yourself to Him. Jesus goes to discover these people among the crowd and removes them from anonymity, frees them from the fear of living and of taking risks. He does so with a look and a word which sets them back on the path after much suffering and humiliation. We too are called to learn and to imitate these freeing words and this gaze which restores the will to live to those who lack it.

In this Gospel passage the themes of *faith* and of *new life*, which Jesus came to offer to all, are intertwined. When he enters the house where the dead girl lies, he sends outside those who are weeping and making tumult (cf. v. 40), and he says: "The child is not dead but sleeping" (v. 39). Jesus is Lord, and before him physical death is like a dream: there is no reason to despair. Another death is the one to fear: that of the heart hardened by evil! Yes, we should be afraid of that one! When we feel we have a hardened heart, a heart that is hardened, allow me to say, a mummified heart, we should be afraid of this. This is the death of the heart. But sin too, the mummified heart too, is never the last word with Jesus, because he has brought us the infinite mercy of the Father. And even if we have hit rock bottom, his tender and strong voice reaches us: "I say to you, arise!". It is beautiful to hear that word of Jesus addressed to each one of us: "I say to you, arise! Go. Stand up. Take courage, arise!". Jesus restores life to the little girl and restores life to the healed woman: life and faith to both.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary to accompany our journey of faith and of concrete love, especially toward those who are in need. Let us invoke her maternal intercession for our brothers and sisters who are suffering in body and in spirit.

After the Angelus, Pope Francis added:

Dear brothers and sisters, renewing my prayer for the beloved people of Nicaragua, I would like to join the efforts being made by the Bishops of the country and so many people of good will, in their role of mediating and witnessing through the process of national dialogue underway on the path to democracy.

The situation in Syria is still grave, in particular in the province of Daraa, where the military actions of recent days have also struck schools and hospitals and have caused thousands of newly displaced people. I renew, along with my prayer, my appeal that the population, already tried for

years, may be saved from further suffering.

Amid so many conflicts, it is appropriate to signal an initiative that one could define as historic — and one could also say that it is good news: in these days, after 20 years, the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea have returned to talk together about peace. May the encounter switch on a light of hope for these two countries of the Horn of Africa and for the entire African continent.

I also assure my prayers for the young people lost for over a week in an underground cave in Thailand.

Next Saturday I will be in Bari, along with many Church Leaders and Christian Communities of the Middle East. We will have a day of prayer and reflection on the ever tragic situation of that region, where so many of our brothers and sisters in faith continue to suffer, and we will implore in a single voice “May peace be upon you!” (cf. Ps 122[121]:8). I ask everyone to accompany with prayer this pilgrimage of peace and unity.

I offer my greeting to all of you, people of Rome and pilgrims. I greet in particular the faithful from Portugal and the priests of the *Sacerdos* Institute of the Pontifical University *Regina Apostolorum*; as well as Poland’s Franciscan Sisters of Penance and Christian Charity, and the faithful of Iraq.

I greet the parish groups and associations; the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles; the group of children from the Diocese of Padua’s Pastoral Care Unit of Gallio; the young confirmands of the Maria Himmelfahrt in Schattdorf Parish; and the spiritual family of the Most Precious Blood of Christ to which the month of July is dedicated in a special way.

I wish everyone a happy Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch.
Arrivederci!