



## Wednesday Prayer

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – The Wide Spectrum of Faith

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. <sup>22</sup>Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet <sup>23</sup>and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” <sup>24</sup>So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. <sup>25</sup>Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. <sup>26</sup>She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup>for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” <sup>29</sup>Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease... <sup>38</sup>When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup>When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” <sup>40</sup>And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” <sup>42</sup>And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). Mark 5:21-43

Grasping at straws, believing, hoping, wishing, thinking it all laughable, completely improbable and unrealistic, doubting, trusting and fearing. These are the reactions played out in these two encounters with Jesus. What have your reactions been as you hear these stories, as you experience God’s presence in your life? A mixture of the same I’d imagine. I know they have been for me. Sometimes I believe completely with every fiber of my being. Sometimes I waffle, I’m afraid, hoping/wishing, and sometimes I take a step forward trusting even though I’m not entirely sure.

Wherever you are today on that wide spectrum of thoughts, questions, doubts and sureness about Jesus, I want you to know two things. The first is that it’s normal to have a wide range of thoughts, feelings and reactions to God, Jesus, faith and life and how they all fit together. You don’t need to feel guilty or less than or like you don’t belong because of them. In fact, they are precisely why you do belong. The perfectly imperfect community of doubting, struggling, wondering, and trusting/believing makes space for questions and sees them not as heretical but the way into faith. That’s what it means to be part of this crew. That is the core of what we do...love each other unconditionally, carefully and gracefully through all our wonderings about God.

Secondly, none of that - none of how you react to God and Jesus and faith - deters God or turns God away. Jesus is not deterred from stopping to know the hemorrhaging woman and restoring her fully and publicly to her community. With the mourners at Jairus’ home laughing and mocking him, Jesus is not put off. In both stories, Jesus moves steadily forward to heal the hemorrhaging woman and the little girl, and draws Jairus and the ridiculing mourners and the crowd toward the full and abundant life he wants for them. No one is invisible.

Throughout scripture, throughout history, nothing deters God from loving you and from being present in your life in ways that draw you toward life. This is the good news that is for us, that is for all who are lost and have been made invisible, who thought their life was over. This good news; let us soak in it and share it and draw people toward the one who has the power in the hem of his cloak to heal and bring new life.

**Holy God, your power to heal is terrifying and often unbelievable and maybe that is why I don’t always reach for it the way the hemorrhaging woman did or trust it the way that Jairus did. Bring into my sightline all those who have been made invisible by the evil in the world and help me to bring them to your feet where they might experience the new life you have poured into me.**