

The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 8:41-56

And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him. And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace. While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laugh'd him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. And her parents were astonished: but he charg'd them that they should tell no man what was done. (KJV)

The present Gospel reveals the miracle working powers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Great faith is involved in the miracles occurring. The woman with the long-standing issue of blood had strong faith and was healed.

The woman was plagued with the issue of blood for many years. She spent her whole livelihood without success seeking a cure from physicians. She reached out to Jesus in faith and was healed.

Let us learn from the countless believers having been healed by making pilgrimages to monasteries to venerate the relics of saints. Similar healings have occurred when venerating miracle working icons.

Holy Unction, prayer and fasting have benefitted believers in firm faith and have resulted in great miracles. The Lord Jesus Christ continues to perform miracles and brings abundant joy to the faithful.

Today's Gospel records a second miracle. Jesus restored life to Jairus' daughter after she had departed this life. At the news of the daughter's death, Jesus said: "Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole." (Lk.8:50)

Believers today have a choice whether to maintain strong faith in Jesus Christ. The world offers many different choices. The present Gospel verifies the never-lasting joy experienced when faith is placed in Jesus Christ.

The woman with the long-standing issue of blood found healing, peace and joy in Jesus Christ. None of her other efforts brought the same degree of healing, peace and joy. The woman's strong faith made a difference.

Jairus could have succumbed to the news his daughter was dead. Jairus could have dismissed Jesus's words to only believe and his daughter would be made whole.

Jairus accompanied Jesus to the house where his dead daughter was located. The daughter was restored to life. Jairus' faith and trust in Jesus Christ yielded joy beyond measure.

The world is filled with gloom these days. Combat the daily gloom with strong faith. Draw hope from the Epistle to the Hebrews. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb.13:8)

Believers with strong faith continue to experience Jesus Christ's miracles. Jesus Christ is the source of lasting hope, peace and joy in all circumstances. No other choices in life offer the same degree of satisfaction to the soul.

The Holy Apostle Peter offers the soundest wisdom. In St. John's Gospel, Peter's words are preserved: "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." (Jn.6:68)

From today's Gospel, we learn to rely on Jesus in all circumstances of life. Jesus deserves to be the first choice for all of our decisions. Turning to Jesus is not only to be reserved for moments of desperation.

We are denied the fullness of life, the joy and peace of life, when we turn to other than Jesus Christ for fulfillment. The present Gospel is a lesson to be heeded about resolute faith.

Wise individuals will heed the message of this Gospel and seek to nourish personal faith in God's Holy Church. The Gospel offers nourishment and strength for everyday life.

The hunger of the soul finds satisfaction in the Gospel. The Gospel teaches the necessities for daily life. Believers seeking to grow in faith and in life never exhaust the learning contained in the Gospels.

God's Holy Church welcomes believers seeking to nourish their faith. God's Holy Church provides the healing power and love of Christ in the Divine services. Immerse the self in God's Holy Church and experience Jesus Christ's miracles.

The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Martyr Onesiphorus and Porphyrius; St. Necarius Kephalas of Pentapolis. November 9/ 22, 2020. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic