

## 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 laughed 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 charged them that they should tell no man what was done. (KJV)

The present Gospel is a lesson on the value of having strong faith in the Living, Loving and Merciful God. Jesus performed two great miracles in the present Gospel as a lasting lesson for believers interested in having strong faith.

The woman with the issue of blood for twelve years was healed when she drew near and touched Jesus. Jesus restored life to Jairus' daughter. The two miracles affect attentive believers' hearts, minds and souls.

Who but the Living, Loving, Merciful God could heal a medical condition of twelve years in duration with a single touch? Who but the Living, Loving, Merciful God could give life to a child already dead?

The Lord Jesus Christ once told His disciples: "with God all things are possible" (Mk. 10:27) The present Gospel opens the heart, mind and soul to the unlimited possibilities of having faith in the Living, Loving, Merciful God.

Jesus told the woman with the issue of blood that her faith had made her whole. The restoration of life to Jairus' daughter certainly is reason to place confidence and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today's world is very challenging. Believers face personal responsibilities which can be very stressful. Parish churches struggle with continuing in an uncertain world filled with violence and multiple concerning social issues.

Husbands and wives have the challenge of raising sons and daughters in today's world. Personal relationships in the home, school and at work are subject to different perilous influences.

Having order and peace in daily life are challenges believers contend with on a regular basis. The Lord Jesus Christ verified in the present Gospel the value of strong faith establishing peace in the heart, mind and soul.

Strong faith in God makes a difference in personal mental and physical health. Resolute faith in God guides families through the growth process desirable for husbands, wives, parents and children.

Firmness of faith in God is necessary among church leaders and is essential in the clergy. Hunger in believers' souls is adequately addressed only with the firmest of faith in God.

Parishes grow and are transformed in proportion to the faith in God held by the clergy, church leaders and parishioners. Families develop and mature in direct relationship to extent the faith in God rests in members' hearts, minds and souls.

Businesses and governments succeed when principles of faith in God are manifested in daily working relationships. Chaos, disorder and violence are evidence of the lack of faith in God

The Holy Prophets of old spoke about societal ills. Believers today have a choice whether to heed the Prophets. Believers today will choose whether to listen to the lessons of faith in the present Gospel.

Having strong faith in the Living, Loving, Merciful God is a voluntary action. Plenty of disbelievers exist in the world. There are always disbelievers. The woman with the issue of blood that was healed was a firm, patient believer.

Jairus had the wisdom to come to Jesus Christ when his daughter was ill and dying. Jairus' decision to look to Christ proved beneficial beyond expectations. Jairus witnessed death being overturned by Jesus Christ, the Giver of Life.

Hearers of today's Gospel will choose what they will do with facts presented in the Gospel. Believers taking the Gospel to heart will have their lives transformed. Attentive believers will experience the unlimited joy of new life in Christ.

Parish churches hear this Gospel every year. When parishioners are attentive, the parish is transformed and renewed. Marriages are renewed and strengthened when husbands and wives increase their faith.

Hope emanates from the present Gospel. The darkness of death and illness are dispelled in today's Gospel. Christ's victory over illness and death are attested in the present Gospel.

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The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. St. Paul the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople. Venerable Barlaam, Abbot of Khutyn. November 6/19, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic