

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (6/27-28/2009)

*Wisdom 1/13-24, Psalm 30, 2 Corinthians 8/7-15, Mark 5/21-43*

Jesus was in the midst of a very busy day. Having just traveled by boat across the lake, when he landed, he was immediately met by a synagogue official seeking a huge favor.

The official's 12 year old daughter was near death. Could Jesus come and help her?

Jesus gladly went off with the man; as they strode ahead, they were surrounded by a large throng of curious Galileans. Then the procession came to an abrupt halt.

An older woman, suffering a hemorrhage for 12 years, secretly touched Jesus' cloak as he passed by; she had hoped that the touch of the "holy man" might cure her malady.

No one noticed her, except Jesus, and he immediately stopped in his tracks.

"Who touched me" he asked? It must have been a very special kind of "touch".

Everyone looked around, and the apostles, seeming to be rather impatient with Jesus, pointed out the obvious: there was a crowd all about and anyone could have touched him.

No, Jesus insisted, this was different, and, at that, the woman came forward to admit that she was the "guilty" one.

Interrupted on his important mission, Jesus nevertheless took the time to reassure the woman that her very trust in him had saved her; and gone was the chronic ailment!

The few moments spent with the woman didn't go down well with the official's friends.

In fact, word then came that the girl had died, and the by then surly crowd told Jesus he didn't have to bother any more.

Once again, in doing good, Jesus had angered a group of people.

Unfazed by the implied criticism, Jesus said: "*Do not be afraid; just have faith.*"

Confidently, he proceeded to the home of the official, entered and bade the little girl arise.

Up she sat, jumped off the bed and started skipping about the house.

Jesus suggested to the overwhelmed parents that they give her something to eat.

When you step back and look at Jesus' "agenda" for that day, he probably had foreseen none of those events happening; yet he handled each situation calmly and appropriately.

From such a passage, I draw a lot of confidence in the human Jesus; his concerns were always for people, not for what others were saying about him.

His delicate treatment of the embarrassed woman and his sensitivity to the little girl speak volumes. Nothing and nobody were beyond his concern and care.

That is the Jesus, the human Jesus, who tells us so much about the care of God for His people.

The words of Wisdom inform us: "*God did not make death, nor does He rejoice in the destruction of the living.*"

In fact, says Wisdom, "*God formed man (woman) to be imperishable, the image of His own nature he made them.*"

We're made for good things; we're made to be healthy and hale and happy.

But bad things happen, as they did in Jesus' life.

When they happen, Jesus addresses them, does what he can and moves on.

He didn't cure every ailing woman or child that day, just the ones who came into his orbit.

But, in each case, his actions elicited faith and trust in most of the people he met.

Is it possible he can do the same thing for you?