

The Raising of Jairus' Daughter

St. Mary of the Angels

July 2018

The Synagogue official who came to Jesus was very likely a rather well-off person of dignity in the community.

He fell at Jesus' feet. The depth of his love for his daughter compelled him. He did not send an emissary to represent him, but he went himself.

Jesus responded immediately, as always --journeying with him as he compassionately shared the official's concern.

When voices of discouragement came, announcing the sad news that the girl had died, Jesus disregarded death itself.

"Do not be afraid. Just have faith," he tells the father of the child.

To Jesus, death itself is not an obstacle to life. The power of God is greater than death.

He took along Peter, James, and John. They were closest to him, as later at the Transfiguration.

And he took along the child's mother and father. He realized that parents should not be separated from their

children. That children should not be isolated from their parents. That people must be treated with compassion, especially people who are helplessly in need.

"Little girl, I say to you, Arise!" The Kingdom of God, where every tear shall be wiped away and death will be no more, has begun in Jesus. This great "Arise!" is a foretaste of what God in God's love will say to us all.

Woman suffering from bleeding for 12 years:

(What is this even doing here smack in the middle of the story of the synagogue official? It the gospel writer's nice device to make the journeying of Jesus to the official's house more dramatically real for us. It is an interlude to give us the sense of the time it took for Jesus to get to the official's house. A little "traveling music", we might call it.)

Unlike the well-off synogogue official, this suffering woman is poor. Jesus cares for the poor and the wealthy alike.

"Go, in peace, and be cured of your affliction."

And so, again, he shows himself to be the beginning of the Kingdom of God.

Whatever may be the case for earthly kingdoms, the Kingdom of God does not have borders to keep anyone

out who would enter. "See, I have placed before you an open door, that no one can shut." (Rev. 3:8) Or, in the words of a great hymn, envisioning the Kingdom of God, the New Jerusalem:

**And once again the scene was changed,
New earth there seemed to be.
I saw the Holy City
Beside the tideless sea.
The light of God was on its streets,
The gates were open wide,
And all who would might enter,
And no one was denied.
No need of moon or stars by night,
Or sun to shine by day;
It was the new Jerusalem
That would not pass away,
It was the new Jerusalem
That would not pass away.**

May He whose love and power can heal all afflictions and defeat death itself strengthen our faith and grant us His peace.