

Based on the gospel for Sunday 1 July – Mark 5:21-43

“Your faith has restored you”

In desperation Jairus, a high ranking synagogue official, swallowed his pride and sought out Jesus to save the life of his sick daughter.

The unnamed woman was deemed, because of her medical condition, to be ‘unclean’. Quietly approaching Jesus, she touched him and felt his power heal her.

Jesus felt the power being transmitted to the woman. The frightened woman, now healed, ‘owned up’ and Jesus said to her “your faith has restored you to health; go in peace”.

Jesus also reminded Jairus not to be afraid, but to have faith, before restoring his daughter to life.

The sharp contrasts of the two situations, ‘the high ranking Jairus’ and the ‘unnamed woman’ show that, despite the prejudice that existed in those times, the Lord’s mercy transcends class and privilege barriers for those who have faith.

We are called to share God’s mercy and, as Pope Francis reminded us in his address this Good Friday, should feel ashamed of a world “fractured by divisions and wars, a world devoured by selfishness, in which the young, the sick, the old are marginalised”.

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Lord, we ask for your continuing gift of mercy especially to people who are outcasts and reviled. Amen.