



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY July 1 & BEYOND

“What an Amazing Story!”



What an amazing story is the one where Jesus heals, or, rather, performs the miracle of raising from the dead, the 12-year-old daughter of one of the Jewish synagogue leaders. I was going to say, “what an incredible story,” but I don’t want to give the impression that the story is

in fact in-cred-ible – which means unbelievable (“cred” from the Latin word credere, as in the first words of the Creed, “Credo in unum Deum,” that is, “I believe in one God”). I do believe that this is an authentic story of one of the healings of Jesus Christ. Despite that little concern for our positive and negative terms, though, we do sometimes use those negative expressions as a way to show a deeper sense of awe.

“Jesus took the dead girl’s hand and said to her, Little girl, get up! And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.”

Just before this part of the story from the [Gospel of Mark](#) though, came the mockings of disbelief, as Jesus foretold what would take place to the group of family members and mourners that had gathered. I am going to presume that some of them said in some form of Hebrew or Greek, “That was unbelievable!” when in fact they did actually see the little girl becoming alive again, with their own eyes.

So, a negative is used to describe a positive. Sure, they didn’t think it was possible, so now they are just catching up to the real power of God. It’s just a simple note, but I think that when it comes to talking about the mighty acts of God – both historically, as well as in our own current lives – we should be speaking the positive, since the world tries to eke out hope from their own negativity, their unbelief.

So, for example, if you are telling someone about how your car just suddenly died on Interstate 5 somewhere, and there was nobody around, and it is dangerous being on

the narrow shoulder, and it's not even turning over; then you share that you decided to pray over your car engine, and you did, and it started as soon as you turned the key after your prayer. You might continue your sharing by saying something like, "It was absolutely unbelievable!", and, by the way, your audience is probably already thinking the same thing! But instead perhaps you could say in your story, "It was such a powerful moment." Suddenly your comment is not about you, whether or not you can absorb the moment. It now becomes an affirming statement of Praise and Faith.

Perhaps you are thinking that my illustration of a car dying on the Interstate is a rather pedestrian way of pointing to the wonderful, powerful event of raising someone from the dead!

But it does serve to show a common feature of how the raising of the 12-year-old was set in motion, and how we can do the same for so many situations in our lives, too. If you've read the stories of Jesus' healings, exorcisms, and raisings from the dead in the gospels, you know there are a lot of them. A study of each one shows that there is always some element of faith that is involved, but never quite the same in each. Yes, there are some larger categories. But the point is that a basic question to be used in the study of these stories is "Where is the faith element?"

In the healing of the little girl, it's not the little girl that shows faith in Jesus. She's "at the point of death" at the beginning of the story, and then by the time Jesus has arrived at the home, she is already dead. The story also does not begin with Jesus' initiative, as he did in a couple of other healings. In this case it is the father who, as a synagogue ruler, overcomes whatever resistance he might have had to go publicly to Jesus, and goes and finds him, and asks him to come heal his daughter. "...and seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live."²⁴ And Jesus went with him."

The father goes and makes his request, and that is the initiative of Faith in this story. And the end result is the daughter is made whole. In the illustration of the car, the driver "Goes to God and makes his request" (making the engine come to life), and it does.

Do not be afraid to go find Jesus and implore him to bring something or someone to health. Do not let your internal, mental or emotional, or even physical resistances stop you. He has already made his promise, "Come to me, all you who travail and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." That verse is Jesus calling to us wholeness in him.

Father Rob Eaton, Interim Rector

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: **The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

—The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY Societies of Mary Day of Devotion

11:00a Rosary (St. Mary's Chapel)

11:30a MASS (St. Mary's Chapel)

Noon Potluck Lunch (Parish Hall)