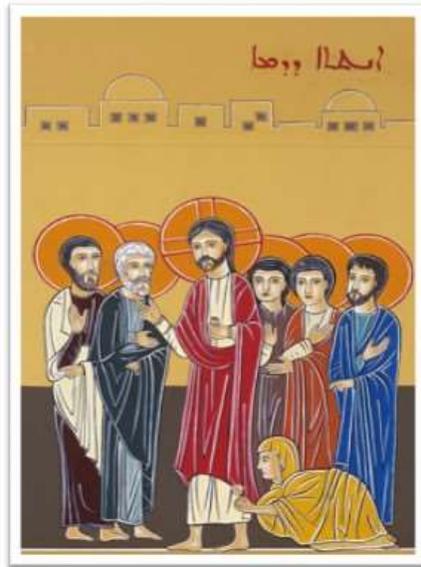


The Hemorrhaging Woman

2 Cor 7:4-11

Lk 8:40-56



So powerful is our passage today! Both the hemorrhaged woman this Sunday and the leper from last weekend are talking about one thing: what is not acceptable in peoples' eyes is acceptable in God's. Leprosy was considered unclean, the flow of blood from human body was as well.

Leprosy was a sickness that everyone could see; however, the bloody woman had an unseen illness. If your wound is seen or not, God is aware of it. Nothing is hidden from his perception.

The leper was by himself; this lady was with the crowd who was surrounding Jesus, pressing him.

Jesus feels your touch, even if you do it cautiously, for fear of being noticed. His senses, sensors, are more advanced than ours.

Yes, this lady stole his power. Jesus said: "I perceive that power has gone forth from me." The one who controls heaven and earth, couldn't control this touch.

This touch was much more powerful. The healing of this woman was beyond his control. But his sensors noticed it, it was too late, the woman was already healed.

This was the only time that Jesus did something he didn't consciously choose to do.

How powerful is this touch, where does it come from? What is the source of it? "Daughter your faith has healed you."

The faith comes from you, the healing comes from Jesus. The one cannot work without the other.

Power appeals power.

But Jesus doesn't really choose to heal her. He was going on his way to heal the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus the synagogue ruler, a well-known person in this time.

This woman whom no one knew about was unnoticed. She was once rich. However, she spent all her money on physicians and could not be healed by anyone. We are seeing two different classes of people, between her and Jairus' daughter. No one is here to plead for her, except herself.

This could be yours or my situation in this world, but be sure that you are not abandoned, your faith is exceedingly precious. This is what our second letter to the Corinthians tells us: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us." Despite our weakness and fragility as human beings, as earthen vessels, we have inside of us an indescribable treasure, our faith.

Faith itself comes from God. It is this supernatural power that we hold.

Power appeals power.

Jairus had his rank, status in the society, his power, and he appealed to Jesus. However, this bloody lady had her faith, her only power to get what she wanted. We can receive from Jesus even without asking him.

How many miracles happen in our daily lives without even noticing them?

We often unknowingly affect others in a positive way without recognizing that we did, and the actions of others can have a similar effect on us as well.

Continuing our liturgy, we are going to give the sign of peace, let us think of the importance of this touch and its power, being full of faith.

In conclusion, Lent is focusing on our treasure, our faith, not only on our jar of clay, an earthen vessel, our body, which the past Ash Monday reminds us of it, beginning our Lenten season. By a touch you can do so much.

Have a great Sunday!

Rev. Father Rami Razzouk