

Jesus the Healer (13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B)

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24—God Did Not Make Death

1. Origin of Death: “God did not make death (Greek *thanatos*)...” (1:13)
2. Creation: “he created all things that they might exist” (1:14)
3. Immortality: “God created man for incorruption...” (2:23)
4. The Fall: “through the Devil’s envy death entered the world..” (2:24)

Psalm 30—I Will Praise You, for You Have Rescued Me

1. Resurrection: “thou hast brought up my soul from Sheol” (=realm of dead) (30:3-5)

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15—Christ, though he was Rich, became Poor for You

1. Incarnation: Christ was “rich” (divine), but became “poor” (human) for us (8:9)

Mark 5:21-43—Jesus the Healer

1. The Raising Jairus’ Daughter: Part 1 (5:21-24; cf. “Markan Sandwich”)
 - a. Jairus: “ruler of the synagogue” (5:22)
 - b. Humility: “he fell at [Jesus’] feet” (5:22)
 - c. Suffering Child: “my little daughter is at the point of death”
2. The Woman with the Hemorrhage (5:25-34)
 - a. Suffering: “a flow of blood” for “twelve years” (cf. Lev 15:25-30)
 - b. Physicians: she had “suffered much” under many “physicians” (Greek *hiatros*)
 - c. Faith: “If I touch *even his garments*, I shall be made well” (5:28)
 - d. Healing: “immediately... healed of her disease/torment” (Gk *mastix*) (5:29)
 - e. Power: Jesus knew “power” had “gone forth from him” (5:30)
 - f. Question: “*Who touched me?*” (5:30)
 - g. Personal Relationship: “*Daughter*, your faith has made you well...” (5:34)
 - h. “Go in peace”: and “be healed of your disease...” (5:34)
4. The Raising Jairus’ Daughter: Part 2 (5:35-43; cf. “twelve years” old)
 - a. Call to Faith: “Do not fear, only believe” (Greek *pisteuō*) (5:36)
 - b. Resurrection: “*Talitha, cumi*” (Aramaic, “Little girl, arise”) (5:41)
 - c. Age: she was “twelve years” old (=same as woman with a hemorrhage)

The Catechism on the Origins of Death

Death is a consequence of sin. The Church’s Magisterium, as authentic interpreter of the affirmations of Scripture and Tradition, teaches that death entered the world on account of man’s sin. Even though man’s nature is mortal, God had destined him not to die. Death was therefore contrary to the plans of God the Creator and entered the world as a consequence of sin. “Bodily death, from which man would have been immune had he not sinned” is thus “the last enemy” of man left to be conquered. (CCC 1008, cf. 400)

The *Catechism* on Christ, Suffering, and the Sacraments

Often Jesus asks the sick to believe... The sick try to touch him, “for power came forth from him and healed them all.” And so in the sacraments Christ continues to “touch” us in order to heal us. (CCC 1504)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B)

1. Why is there suffering and death? According to book of Wisdom, where did God come from?

2. Why does Jesus ask the question “who touched me,” when the entire crowd is pressing in on him? What is special about the way the woman with a hemorrhage “touched” him?

3. How is Jesus a divine physician? How does he heal us? What is the ultimate act of healing?

For Further Study

1. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1006-1114 (on Death) and 1499-1532 (on the Anointing of the Sick). Concise but beautiful and authoritative teaching of the Church on the origins of suffering and death and the way in which Christ comes to heal us in the sacraments of the Church, especially the sacraments of healing.