

This morning's gospel provides enough material for us to meditate on for a week. It is rich with imagery and we can put ourselves in the shoes of one of the characters. For sake of brevity, I thought we might reflect upon Jarius, the synagogue official.

First, he is elected to supervise the synagogue building and the activities that take place in it. In today's terms, he is like the parish priest. Most likely, the people held him in esteem.

That said, it is noteworthy that he falls at Jesus' feet. He does not seek Jesus out at night, but in the full view of others. He is desperate because his little daughter is dying. We can feel his love because the Greek is literally, "my little daughter."

First point: Have you ever felt like this? Have you ever fell on your knees and cried out, "Jesus, please help us!" Have you thought, "I don't care what others think, this is the right thing to do. I need God and am going to ask Him to have mercy on me."

Jesus could certainly just say the word and the girl would be healed. At Mass, we say, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." Jesus is up to something. As we will see, He will allow an evil to happen (i.e., death) to bring a greater good out of it.

We can imagine Jarius creating a path for Jesus as he pushes his way forward. We wonder what he thinks in doing so. "Oh Lord, please. Let's just keep going. Can Jesus heal my daughter?" Is he filled with hope? Anxiety? Again, put yourself in his shoes.

Unfortunately, for Jarius, a woman with a problem of her own derails Jesus. What is Jarius thinking as the dialogue drags on between Jesus and the crowd/woman? Is he getting upset? Disappointed? More anxious? "C'mon Jesus, let's go!"

Second point: Have you asked something of Jesus with great anticipation, but only received silence? Or worse, in your mind, see others being healed and blessed? "Jesus, how come you bless everyone else, but not me? Have you forgotten me?"

Unfortunately, things go from bad to worse. They receive news that Jarius' daughter has died. Worldly speaking, all hope is lost. Jarius' heart must have been crushed. We wonder if a little resentment welled up toward the woman with the hemorrhage.

Then come those beautiful words. "Do not be afraid; just have faith." In other words, keep believing. Keep trusting in me. It's the only thing you need to do." Against all odds, Jarius is invited to trust.

Finally, we hear about the scene at Jarius' home. Jesus is ridiculed when he says the little girl is only asleep. How often we will be ridiculed when we maintain our faith and love for Jesus! And yet, we are reminded to be patient and continue to give our hearts to Him – sometimes against all odds.

Today, bring this beautiful encounter to prayer and ask the Lord what He wants to tell you in it. In doing so, you can be sure that He has something to say to you!