



Wednesday Prayer

5th Sunday after Pentecost – Do not fear, only believe

**But overhearing what they had said, Jesus turned to the leader of the synagogue,
“Do not fear, only believe.” Mark 5:36**

“Talitha cum!” (“Little girl, rise!”) These were powerful words that brought Jairus’ daughter back to life. Similarly, we read in preceding verses that he restored health to a woman who had enough faith that she was emboldened to touch his garment in order to be healed. Jesus was becoming known and in verse 21, we’re told that the crowd pressed in around him as his boat came to the shore. People who were desperate for hope and healing of all kinds. So many people today are desperate for hope and healing amid systemic racism, gun violence, hunger, and injustice in many forms, including sex trafficking. The numbers are staggering, and the problems continue in their severity.

Even though Jesus was surrounded by a crowd, he knew that someone in need of healing had touched his garment, so he sought her out much to the annoyance of the disciples. Can’t you just hear the annoyance in their voice in verse 31, “You see the crowd pressing in on you. How can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” Sometimes the number of people in need feels overwhelming, but Jesus seeks the one out of the crowd and tells her that her faith has made her well. In the same way, Jairus sought him out and asked him to save his daughter, even when others told him not to bother the teacher.

Our deep care for those who are struggling brings us to feel that press of the crowd. We may feel overwhelmed or powerless when we think in terms of helping all in need. But Jesus reached out to those who had faith. We must also continue to be emboldened by our faith and not be overwhelmed by crowds. We must continue to do what we can in faith trusting that God will respond. By participating in the [Cherish All Children Virtual 5K](#) this weekend, or by encouraging others to give, we can raise awareness of our efforts to prevent and respond to sex-trafficking.

Through prayer, education and advocacy, we can give healing and new life to those who are vulnerable to or caught up in sex-trafficking. When we “do not fear, but believe”, youth who are feeling hopeless in our communities can hear those words, “Talitha cum!” and rise from despair to new life.

Holy Spirit, embolden us in our faith to do all that we can to reach out in hope and trust that you will heal and bring new life to those who are vulnerable to or being exploited by others. Amen.

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