

Call to Worship: July 1, 2018

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In today's gospel we see Jesus out with the people...available, accessible, and approachable. A distraught father named Jairus seeks Jesus out; he is desperate as his daughter's life is being threatened by a disease. She is barely hanging on. Jairus is very specific in his request: he seems to know just what this child needs and asks Jesus to come and touch his daughter. Jesus drops everything and goes to the child. He connects with her by **TAKING HER HAND** and speaking **WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT** to her. Jairus must have been closely watching this with bated breath...and... then he sees it...his dying daughter is flooded with new life and gets up and walks...A miracle of healing! The Good News is proclaimed! That which is dead or dying **CAN** be flooded with new life and energy in some way. How? Through a **CONNECTION** with divine power.

Is there a person in your life who is in need of healing? Who do you worry about as they struggle with life? Are there family members who have been cut off? Are grudges or unforgiveness stealing the life from a relationship that is important to you? Do you watch a loved one struggle with anxiety or depression or an addiction? Or a child who struggles in school? Perhaps God is inviting you to go and take someone's hand and speak words of encouragement to them. Words that say "I believe in your ability to bounce back and I am here to support you." Neuroscience now has proven the great power of human connection to bring about healing and change in a life. However, most healing takes patience and we must "Trust in the slow work of God."

Maybe the person in need of healing is yourself. Maybe it is you who is barely hanging on in some way. Is there a part of you that has died? A dream? Your enthusiasm for life? Your marriage? Let today's gospel inspire you to talk to Jesus, and ask for Him to touch you. Visualize Jesus taking you by the hand and speaking the encouraging words you long to hear. Then...trust in the slow work of God.