



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA

PARISH OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY, “EVANGELISMOS”

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THE RAISING OF JAIRUS'S DAUGHTER

EPISTLE The Reading is from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians [1:11-19] But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

EXPLANATION:

The remark that this gospel is neither **“according to man”** nor **“from man”**, serves to rebut the opponents’ accusations that it has no divine authority but is merely a teaching advocated by one group of Christians without official status. **(1:11)** Paul explains to the Galatians that not only was God the ultimate source of the gospel, but also Christ Himself served as the channel by which it was conveyed to Paul; there was no human intermediary. Apostolic tradition is grounded in divine **revelation** from Jesus Christ. Just as the Twelve received the gospel directly from Christ, so did Paul. He entered their unity in consensus and mutual submission. **(1:12)** Although he persecuted the Christians and tried to destroy the church because of his Pharisaic zeal in Judaism, he explains that people are not called by God in accordance by former conduct, but by God’s grace. **(1:13-14)** Paul cannot determine the reason why God decided to reveal His Son in him. It was God’s will that Paul preach to the Gentiles, and that is all Paul needed to know. The decision had been made long ago while he was still **“in his mother’s womb”**. He was **“set apart”** for the purpose even before he was born. God’s sudden and unexpected move to appoint Paul an apostle to the church he was persecuting was a unilateral and incomprehensible action on God’s part. **(1:15-16)** Paul insists that after his call by God, through grace, he did not consult with any human authorities (**“flesh and blood”**), regarding the Gospel, not even the apostles in Jerusalem. **(1:17)** As a true apostle, he submitted himself to the church and her apostles rather than elevating himself. He understood that he must teach the same Gospel as the other apostles. **(1:18)**

GOSPEL The Reading is from St Luke [8:41-56]

And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus’ feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged

Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, *“Who touched Me?”* When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, *“Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, “Who touched Me?”* But Jesus said, *“Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.”* Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, *“Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”* While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house, saying to him, *“Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.”* But when Jesus heard it, He answered him saying, *“Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.”* When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, *“Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping.”* And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, *“Little girl, arise.”* Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

EXPLANATION:

Jesus was approached by a certain **“ruler of the synagogue”**, a man who was neither poor nor insignificant, but the foremost of society. Despite his prominence, in his great need this man falls down before Jesus and begs Him to cure his little daughter of 12 years, his only

child who lay dying. Jairus came to Jesus with two things: a profound sense of his own helplessness, and, a conviction that Jesus could cure his child. His words speak powerfully of Jairus's faith. If Jairus had only a sense of helplessness, the result would be despair and pessimism. People today have half the necessary condition for coming to Christ, namely, a sense of helplessness. But they fail to link up their powerlessness with the divine power Jesus offers us in prayer and especially in every Liturgy through His presence in the Eucharist. This is why there is so much despair. Jairus's helplessness led him to Jesus. This is where our helplessness should lead us both in good times and in times of affliction. **(8:41-42)** And Jesus went with him to his house. But along the way a woman came along and interrupted everything. He stopped to heal that woman. But that little interruption was just enough to cause time to run out, and the little girl died. Jesus tested Jairus's faith by the interruption. Jairus could have given up on Christ when he heard the messenger say, **"Your daughter is dead. Trouble not the Teacher."** "It's too late now." But is it too late for God? Should we ever place a limit on what God can do? The interruption brought for greater blessings to Jairus for not giving up on Jesus. It was then that Jesus said, **"Don't be afraid. Only believe."** This interruption was for the glory of God as well as for someone in need. Because of this interruption, a greater miracle was performed for Jairus; he saw the hand of God raise the dead, and because of that, salvation came to his house. God tests us that we may trust Him. But most of us give up too easily and too quickly. Jairus came to Jesus with faith and he was not disappointed. Like Jairus, may we also never hesitate to approach Our Lord in all our sorrows and sicknesses of life. For Christ is a God Who loves and cares and heals and strengthens. A God Who has never ceased to perform miracles where there is strong faith.