

*Please note that we are re-running reflections from the last B cycle in 2018.*

[Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24

2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

*By Don Timmerman*

Once when I was a child, I hit my elbow against a chair in our home. I ran to my mom and cried, “Mom, I broke my arm.” She immediately looked at my arm and saw that it was not broken. She gave me a big hug and said, “Son, you hit your funny bone, and this does hurt, but you have not broken your arm.” All of us children knew that mom loved us, and so she was the first one to go to in time of need or pain. We are always drawn to those who love us. The people who came to Jesus for healing knew that Jesus loved them. They knew that all they had to do is ask him, and he would do what he could to help them. He spread love around. He showed in action what love can do. His main command to his followers was and is to love one another, but also to love your enemies, and do good to them.

Many forget the command to do good to enemies. This is very important because only love will heal those who want to hurt others to get what they want, those who feel it is alright to step on one’s neighbor in order to gain more power, wealth and status. Only love will bring about a change in another. You can try changing others’ behavior by torturing them, causing them pain or even killing them. We see this over and over again in our many wars with other nations. We have been at war for over 18 years with Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan, Syria and other countries; and our country still believes by causing harm to its enemies it will cause them to change to be better. We mistakenly believe that our violence against them will heal them of their hatred.

We are led to believe that war is the answer to the problems of the world. Christ told us just the opposite. He told us to do good to all, not hurt or kill them. He not only told them with words, but He showed them by example what love can do. Love heals. It heals the broken heart. It heals the mind and body. Jesus showed that love to all, even those who abused, disrespected, and tortured him. All he asks of us is to believe and do the same as he did. If we do not heed the command of Christ we will always be at war, destroying peoples’ lives.

Jairus, the Synagogue official, had likely not been a fan of Jesus. Jesus often criticized the Jewish clergy for a lack of love for their people, concerned more about following traditions than caring for the people. But in desperation, Jairus came to Jesus asking him to heal his daughter.

Certainly Jesus was taken back by this request from someone who likely believed Jesus was a heretic, a phony Messiah deserving of death. Jesus was always willing to forgive, help and be of service to everyone, even the enemy. So he healed the daughter asking that she believe.

Just what did He ask the daughter to believe? Jesus was asking her to believe in the power of love, the changing power of helping another in need. Sometimes we show our disbelief of Jesus and the power of love when we show hatred, disrespect and a lack of concern for those in need.

How many of us have reached out to the victims of war, natural disasters and those who lack water and food? How many of us have taken the time to listen to the sorrows of others? How many of us have tried to stop war and the horrible suffering caused by war? Are we still paying for war, weapons of war, training of our youth to kill and harm the enemy? Do we believe Jesus more than the State?

This quote from Ignazio Salone says it all: "In every period and in whatever society the Supreme Act is to give oneself, to love oneself, to find oneself. You have only what you give."

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