

Lent Day 8

Thursday February 22, 2018

Reading: John 4:39-54

⁵⁰ “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. ⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵² When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

⁵³ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed.

Reflection

I remember when I was a new Christian and there was so much about myself that I knew was out of line with who Jesus had now called me to be. It seemed so overwhelming. Not because I was a bad person (though I wasn't a good one), but because all these things were pieces of the identity I had crafted for myself. They were wrapped around me like a second skin. And, because of that I had no idea how I would ever be rid of them. The task seemed impossible to me, even though I knew that Jesus had delivered people from worse. I wanted to believe, but I struggled to believe.

These two stories: the Samaritan village and the father with a dying son have this characteristic about them. The village initially believes the report about Jesus based on the woman's word. The father comes to Jesus because he has heard about his miracles, so he takes Jesus at his word that his son will be well and heads home. Then the village hears Jesus for themselves and they believe in Jesus for his own sake — they've experienced him. The father is informed that his son is well and figures out it was at precisely the time Jesus said he was, so he and his whole household believes.

We have an expression, seeing is believing. This seems to be proven in the stories, however, it is important to see that there was an exercise of faith — a testing — that happened first. They came to Jesus. Maybe you are struggling with something in your life which seems impossible to face or overcome. Perhaps you can't see how the need can be met and because of that you feel inclined to give up. Don't give up. Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus because others have told you who he is. Come to Jesus because you've heard what he does. Come to Jesus. You can trust him to meet you and your need and then you too will come to believe in him. I have been in the hands of Jesus for almost 23 years now and that second skin has been shed. I am almost unrecognizable from the 21 year old man who thought the powers at work in him were impossible to break — Jesus broke them and I am free.

Prayer

Mighty God, we thank you for your power — the power of the cross which broke the powers of sin and death. And, we thank you that through the resurrection you have given us new life. Now because we have seen your Son we may truly believe. Amen.