

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

**June 30, 2024**

**LECTIONARY 13**

**All Are Welcome**

Do you ever feel left out? Do you ever wonder if Jesus is really for *you*? Perhaps you wonder if your sins are too many, or too bad. Or perhaps life has dealt you a rotten hand, and if people only knew what was going on behind your shallow “I’m fine” at church coffee hour, they wouldn’t be so friendly. Or maybe you’ve heard that Jesus is for the marginalized, the victims, and the irreligious—and you’re none of those things. You have a solid family, a good job, a nice church you’re very involved in. *Perhaps Jesus is too busy to be bothered with my concerns*, you think.

If you’ve ever thought that perhaps you’re not the right sort of person for the message of Jesus, today’s gospel reading should set your mind at ease. In one quick story Jesus heals a woman of low status *and* the daughter of a man well respected in the community. The woman with the endless flow of blood shouldn’t be near anyone, according to long-followed laws. But in faith, she dares to brush her fingers against the hem of Jesus’ cloak and, instead of a rebuke, hears the loving voice of her Savior. The leader of the synagogue is precisely the sort of religious authority we tell ourselves Jesus came to cast down from their thrones. But in faith, he dares to ask Jesus into his home and, instead of a rebuke, sees the Messiah restore his daughter to life.

No matter who you are, Jesus is for you. Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, any gender, any background, marginalized or imbued with worldly power—Jesus is for you. He is not ashamed or afraid of you. He is not too busy helping others. Reach out in faith and let him show you just how much he loves you.

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