



Sunday 7th June 2026

The First Sunday after Trinity

Gospel Reading

Matthew 9.9-13, 18-2

The Calling of Matthew

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Other Readings: Genesis 12.1-9 Psalm 33.1-12 Romans 4:13-end

Homily

Throughout history we can find stories of people who trusted in God, and in many of those stories, trusting in God resulted in miraculous things happening. Florence Nightingale, Charles Dickens and George Frederic Handel all expressed their trust in God to guide their work.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul cites Abraham as someone who had unswerving faith in God. We can see, in our Gospel reading, three more people who had faith in God in the person of Jesus: Matthew, Jairus and an unnamed woman.

Jesus saw Matthew sitting in his place of work, and called him to follow. Matthew obeyed and became a disciple. Commentators suggest that this is almost certainly not the first time that Matthew and Jesus had met – Matthew probably heard Jesus preaching and had maybe longed to respond to Jesus' request. There was no fanfare and no celebration. Rather there

were criticisms – criticism of Matthew, a sinner in the eyes of the Pharisees, and criticism of Jesus, who sat and ate with sinners like Matthew.

But Matthew remained faithful, following Jesus, and in the early days of the Church, he was attributed with writing the Gospel that we read today. It is reported that he died a martyr in Ethiopia. He trusted God to the end.

Jesus' meal with Matthew was interrupted by Jairus – we know his name from Mark's telling of the story. Jairus was a man with authority, respected by powerful people in the area. He was a leader of the synagogue, aware of his position in society. Yet he put his trust in Jesus and begged him to heal his daughter. What was he thinking? He must have had an amazing amount of trust in this healer and teacher – and he is not disappointed. When Jesus makes his way to Jairus' house, he finds mourners already gathered, but he goes inside, takes the girl by the hand, and she got up.

On his way to Jairus' house, though, a woman who had been ill for 12 years reached out and touched Jesus' cloak. She wanted just a small piece of what Jesus had to offer, and received new life because of her trust in him. This anonymous woman, who had been an outcast from society because of her perceived uncleanness, (it was the thinking of that time and context), was made whole by her encounter with Jesus.

Three people who showed immense trust and found new life.

Matthew knew the derision and dislike of those in authority, but trusted the call of Jesus and his life was changed for ever.

Jairus put aside his respectability and position and begged for help, putting his trust in a great teacher and healer. He found new life for his child.

Because of her trust, the unnamed woman braved public humiliation just to touch Jesus' cloak, and found wholeness and healing.

Jesus responded to all of them because he knew that he had come:
for the sick, not the healthy;
for those who are sinners, not the righteous,
for those who recognize that he is filled with mercy;

May we learn to trust as these three did and enjoy the new life that we receive from God.

Conversation Questions

1. Which of the three individuals' stories most resonate with you? Is your trust in God similar?
2. Can you identify any times when you trusted in God and found wholeness and healing as a result?
3. Is there anything else from the passage not already discussed that speaks to you? What is it?
4. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today? #everydayfaith

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer, responding to what you have heard today and listening to what God might be saying to you.

Collect of the day

*O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

(or)

*God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son.*

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