

## **Homily for 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time - June 26-27**

In the Bible, often the words used to indicate someone has been healed are words that also express that one has been saved, one has been rescued.

In the Old Testament, the Psalms were sung because these prayers spoke to the people awaiting The Savior; as well as awaiting immediate rescue from their current troubles. We of the New Covenant also sing these hymns. That is because we still experience the need for Our Savior to heal and rescue us regularly from suffering, illness, despair, doubt, fatigue, fear – and ultimately from our sins. From all of these things we not only need deliverance, we also pray because these troubles demand attention which belongs to God who made us, and saves us.

In our psalm today, the response we use is:

“I will praise you Lord, for you have rescued me.”

That is a powerful prayer. It draws our eyes back to God our creator, our beloved, our savior.

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In the gospel today, we get a small glimpse of what seems like a typical day in Jesus’ life. Jesus is surrounded by crowds who demand His attention, desire His wisdom, and ask for His help. In the midst of that, there are two healings that occur, one even takes place as an interruption to the other.

The gospel today speaks of healings. Our Lord wants them to be moments of transformations, entry points into the divine. The healings are invitations for the people to encounter the One through Whom the healing takes place.

Today’s gospel asks those who have experienced or witnessed these healings – including us who read about them and hear them, to decide what we will do about it.

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In our everyday lives there are many ways we respond to being healed, getting out of a difficulty, and being freed from fear. One way is that we talk about it matter-of-factly. “The doctor gave me a prescription, and now I am all better.”

Another way is to gush over the event and the freedom from the harm that was being done. It becomes a constantly reoccurring story to be told and mulled over and learned from. “AND I CAN WALK AGAIN!” “And then someone pulled me out of the burning wreckage.” “I joined Alcoholics Anonymous.” “I passed my test and got a job.”

In our faith-life, it works the same way. We either speak of God blessing us as light conversation. Or our day is filled with recounting God’s blessings and listening to others tell of their experiences of Christ walking with them; of the Holy Spirit guiding them.

In light of our Psalm Response today, today’s Gospel reminds us that constantly erupting with praise and thanksgiving to God is appropriate.

“I will praise you Lord, for you have rescued me.”

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In our world today, advertisements use this as a technique to sell things. They are called “personal testimonies.” Words like “Testimony” are borrowed from Christian renewals and sermons and preaching on street corners.

Even in the second healing today, where Our Lord tells the household that, “no one should know this,” the fact remains that a girl who had died has now come back to life. This is not something that can remain secret. It proclaims Someone is doing Something new and Godly in their midst. And so the Good News, the witness, the testimony, is demanded.

God has acted in our lives many times – maybe many times a day. And we sometimes forget.

We are called to always recall Christ’s saving help. We are called to be witnesses to the world of the salvation found in Jesus. We are called to testify to Christ, who has changed our lives and continues to change our lives; who continues to save us and forgive us and grace us.

Let us train ourselves to again be able to make God’s help to us be part of our regular vocabulary. So that we may find ourselves regularly saying to God, in these words or others, “I will praise you Lord, for you have rescued me.”