

We know from the scriptures that as word of Jesus' miracles spread,
many came seeking him for cures and help.

And we know from the scriptures
that indeed, Jesus cured many sick people
and even raised some from the dead –
but not all...

Jesus cured lepers,
but he did not bring an end to leprosy.
Jesus gave sight to the blind,
but he did not bring an end to blindness.
Jesus cured the halt and the lame
but he did not bring an end to crippling diseases.
Jesus raised some from death,
but he did not bring an end to physical death.

Some, but not all...

There must have been many who saw Jesus leave their towns
and who shook their heads in disbelief
because the Christ had not healed *their* illnesses,
had not raised *their* loved ones from death.

Without a doubt, the miracles of Jesus get our attention –
they are showstoppers -
but what they are really meant to teach us
sometimes escapes our notice.

The miracles of Jesus do not promise an end of suffering.
Rather, teach us about the miracle *worker*:
Here is one so powerful
that sickness fades at his word,
what is broken is healed by his touch.
Here is one "able to reach deep into the world beyond this life
and rescue a child from the jaws of death."¹
Here is one who forgives sin and promises everlasting life,
even if the door to such life is death itself.

If there seems something unfair
in Jesus choosing to heal or raise one person but not another,
we need to remember that all the healing and raising
are meant to teach us that for ALL -not just a select few- but for ALL,
there is a healing and a raising to come

¹ Diane Bergant in *Preaching the New Lectionary – B*, p. 291.

from which none need be excluded.

We stand before the scriptures this week as we always do,
with old wounds and griefs
as well as others freshly added to our already burdened souls.

To hearts such as ours the gospel promises
the word, the touch and the reach of Jesus
to support us in and ultimately heal us of
all that separates and burdens us.

To Jairus' daughter Jesus said, Talitha kum:

"Little girl, I say to you arise!"

In the eucharist he says the same to each of us,
inviting us to trust in his promise to raise us up
from all that weighs us down - even death itself.

The word of scripture draws us to this table
where the arm of Jesus reaches deep in our hearts
with the healing comfort of his life
in the bread and cup of the eucharist.

Come to the table where all are welcomed
to taste and see the One who heals and raises us up - all of us!

- *Rev. Austin Fleming*