



## *Reflection from Ben Babaran*

In this Sunday's Gospel, the evangelist Mark uses the literary sandwich technique. This is to show the reader how to interpret the story. He starts with the story of the daughter of Jairus who is at the point of death. Out of nowhere before that story is finished, Mark tells the story of the woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. When the story of the hemorrhaging woman is done, Mark finishes the story of Jairus' daughter.

There is something that holds this literary sandwich together. It is death. Jairus' daughter and the hemorrhaging woman both experience death. While the daughter of Jairus physically died, the woman with hemorrhages for 12 years is, in one level, also at the point of death. On another level, she is already socially and religiously dead being unclean and an outcast.

But death is not the only filler in the sandwich. We hear and see another part to the sandwich that is holding it together, that is faith. The adult woman is healed, saved and restored to community life because of her faith. Meanwhile, Jesus resurrects the young girl due to the faith of her father. Both women have their lives back – with family, with heritage and with communities of faith. Faith in Jesus gives and restores life! Jesus is the one who transforms death and turns it into a moment of new life and hope.

The pandemic, political situation and current ideologies have brought death, separation and estrangement. As an Asian, I am saddened about the anti-Asian sentiment. I was furious when our youngest daughter, Leah, came to me crying because someone told her: "Go home, chink!" We are better than this. We are all created in the image of God.

As the body of Christ, we are asked to be welcoming, respectful, and compassionate. Inasmuch as Jesus did not deny the hemorrhaging woman access to him, we are never asked to deny anybody access to Christ.

Today, we meet Jesus allowing himself to be touched by the unclean, the ostracized, the nameless. We meet the Risen One stopping to treat each of us as persons worthy to be heard and touched. Today, we hear the Risen Lord saying to us, "Daughter" "Son," "Rise and go, live your life to the full in the image of the one who made you."

*~ Peace,  
Ben*