

**Catholic Schools Week Mass
January 31, 2017**

That was a long Gospel, wasn't it? There were two stories pushed together. The first one was about a man named Jairus and his daughter who was sick, and the other was about this poor woman who had been sick for 12 years. But in both stories, Jesus shows us the power of faith!

Jairus showed his faith by finding Jesus in the crowd. He walked up to Jesus just knowing that the Lord could help his sick daughter. Jesus knew his faith, and immediately started walking with him to care for his little girl.

On the way, the woman who had been sick so long came up to Jesus. She had tried so many doctors and spent all of her money trying to get well, but nothing worked. But then she heard about Jesus, and she knew he was the one to help her. She made her way through the crowd thinking, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." That is some amazing faith, isn't it? She knew she just had to touch his clothes, and she would be healed. She was open to the saving power of God, and her faith was rewarded.

Sometimes though, it is hard to have faith. Some of the people in the crowd lost their faith when they heard that Jairus' daughter had died. Some of them even started to make fun of Jesus because he said the little girl could still be saved. Through all of it, though, Jairus had faith! He never lost his faith in Jesus. He was right, too.

Jesus was able to bring the little girl back from the dead. Faith is powerful! Faith keeps us from sadness or from feeling like there is no hope.

A lot of people feel hopeless these days. Even a lot of Christians feel hopeless. This is sad, because we are supposed to be people of faith. When there is so much sadness around us it can be easy to lose some of our faith in God's power. Thankfully, Pope Francis is a good shepherd who reminds us how. The Pope says: "It's prayer that preserves faith; without it faith falters!" (25 May 2016). Prayer, my sisters and brothers, prayer is what we need! Do you pray every day? You can pray when you wake up, or as you are coming to school, or with your friends here at school, or with your family, or even before you go to bed. Prayer just means talking to God. Tell him thank you for good things that happen, ask him to help you when bad things happen, ask him to forgive you when you do bad things, or ask him to forgive others when they hurt you. The important thing to remember today is that we need to pray! Can you do that? Can you be people who pray?

That is beautiful. People who pray are people who have faith. People who have faith can help the world. We can help the world have hope. Thank you, my friends, for helping the world to have hope. May we always keep our eyes on Jesus, who gives us the power of faith.