

## *Holy Interruptions 5*

If you had slept in the same house or field with Jesus, awakened with him, eaten with him and helped him, what would you have observed? One thing we always think of is that Jesus gave himself almost entirely to what we would consider interruptions. Most of the teaching, healing and wonders we see in his life were responsive...seemingly unplanned. He trusted that what the Father allowed to cross his path was exactly that...from the Father. Jesus always seemed willing for things to get messy” **Marcia Lebharr**



**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. Matthew 9:18-25**

The first few chapters of Jesus ministry are woven throughout with phrases like “Immediately after” or “as soon as”. Once people recognized the power in Jesus, it seems that he was in constant demand. In this reading, we find an interruption within an interruption within an interruption. Jesus was already in the midst of teaching one group of listeners, when someone interrupted with a request to heal Jairus’ daughter. On the way to Jairus’ house, another woman was healed simply by touching the hem of Jesus’ garment. He might well have continued walking, but he stopped and asked for her to show herself, so that he could affirm her faith. Even in the midst of a crowd, he interrupted his own passage to raise her example for others to see.

When he arrived at Jairus’ house, the little girl had died, and the mourners were already playing their song of grief. But Jesus interrupted them and sent them away. Then he interrupted death itself.

Who is this? the people asked. Word of his healings spread far and wide, for no one brought new life like Jesus, interrupting the story of despair or disease or rejection. He not only made bodies whole, but brought women rejected for ritual impurity and children who had been mourned back to their families.

Do you find it hard to ask for help? Do you put the needs of others above your own, or believe you should not bother someone else with your brokenness, your hurt, your need? And yet Jesus affirmed the woman who wanted wholeness for herself, he blessed with the words: *Take heart, your faith has made you well.*

Let us pray: *Take heart in us, O God of love. Take heart in the times when we reach out for the help we need. These are the times when we believe that we are loved enough, good enough, or desperate enough to seek a change and a new chapter. Then in the times when we believe we are NOT enough, send your holy power on us and heal the woundedness, the lack of faith, the broken spirit. Bless us with the courage and the confidence to trust in you completely. We pray in Jesus’ healing name, Amen.*