

of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that scourge. After the miracle done to the man possessed of a demon, the Lord works another miracle, raising up the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue. The evangelist mentions the name of the ruler of the synagogue for the sake of the Jews who knew of this event. Now this man had faith in half measure only. By falling at the Lord's feet, he had faith; by beseeching Him to come in person, he did not show as much faith as he ought. For he ought to have said, "Only say the word." As the Lord went with him, as if just in passing He also healed the woman with an issue of blood.³ This woman had great faith, for she thought she could receive benefit even from His garment. And so indeed she received healing. You should also understand these things as pertaining to human nature, which also had an issue of blood. For human nature had been gushing forth sin which was killing the soul as it drained out the life-blood of the soul. It could not be healed by the many physicians, that is, the wise of this world, and indeed the law and the prophets. But as soon as our human nature touched Christ's clothes, that is, His flesh, it was healed. For he who touches Christ's clothes is he who believes that Christ took flesh.

30-34. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned Him about in the press, and said, Who touched My clothes? And His disciples said unto Him, Thou seest the multitude thronging Thee, and sayest Thou, Who touched Me? And He looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before Him, and told Him all the truth. And He said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy scourge. Power goes out from Christ, not travelling from one location to another, but rather imparted to others while remaining in Christ undiminished. It is the same with teachings, which remain with those who teach, and yet are imparted to those who learn. See how none of the multitude who were thronging about Him touched Him, but rather she who was not thronging about Him. We learn from

³ Holy Tradition gives the name of this woman who suffered from an issue of blood as Veronica. The Church commemorates this saint on July 12.

this a mystery, that those in tumult and turmoil do not touch Christ; they only throng about Him. But he who touches Jesus is the one who does not crowd against Jesus, and who does not surround with turmoil the Word within himself. Why does the Lord reveal the woman? First, that He might glorify the woman's faith; secondly, to encourage the ruler of the synagogue that his little daughter will likewise be made whole; and thirdly, to deliver the woman from her great fear. For the woman was afraid that she had, as it were, stolen the healing. This is why the evangelist says that the woman came "fearing and trembling". The Lord, therefore, does not say, "I have made thee whole," but, "thy faith hath made thee whole." Accordingly, go in peace, that is, go and be at rest. What He means is this: "Depart, be at rest, since you have been, until this moment, in grief and turmoil."

35-43. While He yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe. And He suffered no man to follow Him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James. And He cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. And when He was come in, He saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? The little girl is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed Him to scorn. But when He had put them all out, He taketh the father and the mother of the little girl, and them that were with Him, and entereth in where the little girl was lying. And He took the little girl by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Little girl, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the little girl arose, and walked; for she was twelve years of age. And they were astonished with a great astonishment. And He charged them sternly, that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat. Those of the household of the ruler of the synagogue thought that Christ was one of the teachers, which is why they besought Him to come and pray for the little girl. So, then, when she died, they thought there was no longer any need for Him to come, as she had died. But He encouraged the father and said, "Only believe." He did not permit anyone to accompany Him except these three disciples. For Jesus, in His humility,