

Trust!

Lamentations 3:23-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-end; Mark 5:21-end

Your faith has made you well.

[Mark 5:34]

Faithfulness and trust - that's what we have in the readings for today.

Lamentations makes the confident statement about God - often (as the text suggests) learned through hard times - **Great is your faithfulness!**

The passages we didn't read carry the theme on - read them at home:

*The Psalmist knows that **heaviness may endure for an night but joy comes in the morning** and that God will **turn my mourning into dancing.***

*Paul is uncharacteristically cheerful. He states that Jesus exchanged the riches of heaven for human poverty **so that by his poverty you might become rich.** That in turn inspires us to be generous!*

The Gospel then continues the theme from Mark's run of miracles.

- * Last week you heard about the calming of the storm;
- * the lectionary misses out the exorcism of the Gerasene Demoniac (who had the demons sent into pigs);
- * now we have the healing of the woman who had 'womens' problems' for 12 years;
- * then there is the raising of Jairus's daughter.

Together these make the point that Jesus has authority over nature, demons, sickness and death. In the Gospel Mark is creating the foundation on which we can base trust.

The sociologist Peter Berger builds on the work of Karl Marx when he talks about **plausibility structures.**

And that is what Mark is doing 2 millennia before sociology had been invented. So many people need to believe that religion is believable before they commit to it, so we set out the case for belief.

Let me put it another way (more fitting for all-age).

Balance a chair on a pew - who will sit on it? No-one? Why? Because you believe it isn't safe!

Set a chair on the floor - who will sit on it? Yes? Why? Because you believe it is safe!

Children have less trouble with this. If a child is asked to jump into someone's arms they either do or don't. They don't agonise over the decision but act on what they think is plausible.

What does it take for us to trust God? It is the best option - God is faithful even when we are not!