**Who touched my clothes? Why all this confusion? Why are you crying?** (Mark 5.30 & 39)

Parish Profile to hopefully get a new presbyter has 16 questions. Some were easy to answer, others were tougher. Children often ask questions. Questions make you think, and can change us.

Jesus asks questions in our reading – TEXT.

Read the story noticing the questions. They may have seemed odd or trivial but are profound.

* Somehow power had left Jesus (v 30); he needed to help her, as simple healing was not enough.
* Confusion often follows unexpected death, or any unexpected event.
* The understandable crying was due to loss, but possibly betrayed an unhelpful view of death.

Jesus, in our situation, asks the same questions of us. I will take them in reverse order.

*Are you crying?* Many have good reason to cry – life is not what is was or should be. Whether you shed tears or not, whether you so in public or private, you can be crying inside. You’ve lost something/someone valuable to you. It may be something physical (object or health) or your faith that has taken a battering.

*Are you confused?* If faith has been challenged or health compromised confusion is normal. Maybe you are not sure what the next step is, or how to take it. Should you pretend to yourself or publicly that you are OK? Do you need time to get over the shock? And is this something done on your own or accompanied by a friend? Is a completely new way of living needed to start again?

*Do you want to “touch Jesus’ clothes”?* This might seem a bit odd. Are you seeking some respite from internal pain? Has your dignity to be put to one side? Desperate enough to try anything? Do you sense that God might be able to help?

If so, remember that Jesus is still the same. He who helped that woman and Jairus’ daughter can help us. Let’s give it a go!

Of course, given your personality this might be a private matter. That’s OK. But do respond today.
If you do want to talk about it, or be prayed for, I am here; so are your friends in the faith.
Any prayer does not have to be fancy or long, just sincere.