

## **TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

(John 4: 46b-53)

(*Poem*, Vol. 2, p. 36; *Gospel* Vol. 2, pp. 471)

**(Jesus is possibly going towards the lake. He certainly arrives at Cana and directs His steps towards Susanna's house. His cousins are with Him.)** While they are in the house and they rest and take some food, Jesus, to Whom His relatives and friends are listening as they should always do, teaches those good people in a very simple way. He also comforts the husband of Susanna, who appears to be ill. She is in fact absent and while I hear them talk continuously of how much she suffers, a well dressed man enters and prostrates himself at Jesus' feet.

'Who are you? What do you want?'

While the man is still sighing and weeping, the landlord pulls Jesus by the hem of His tunic and whispers: 'He is an officer of the Tetrarch. Don't trust him too much.'

'Speak up. What do you want from Me?'

'Master, I heard that You are back. I have been waiting for You as one waits for God. Come to Capernaum at once. My son is so ill that his hours are numbered. I saw John, Your disciple. He told me that You were coming here. Come, please come at once, before it is too late.'

'What? Can You, a servant of the persecutor of the Holy One in Israel, believe in Me? You do not believe in the Precursor of the Messiah. So, how can you believe in the Messiah?'

'That is true. We are guilty of incredulity and of cruelty. But have mercy on a father! I know Chuza. I have seen Johanna. I have seen her before and after the miracle. And I believed in You.'

'Quite! You are such an incredulous and wicked generation that you will not believe without signs and miracles. You lack the essential quality that is necessary to obtain a miracle.'

'It is true. It is all very true. But You can see... I believe in You now and I beg You: come to Capernaum at once! I will have a boat ready for You at Tiberias, so that You may come quicker. But please come before my child dies!' and he weeps desolately.

'I am not coming just now. But go to Capernaum. Your son is cured as from this moment and he will live.'

'May God bless You, my Lord. I believe You. But as I want all my household to welcome You when You come to Capernaum, come to my house.'

'I will come. Goodbye. Peace be with you.'

The man rushes out and soon after the trot of a horse can be heard.

'But is the boy really cured?' asks Susanna's husband.

'Is it possible for you to think that I tell lies?'

'No, my Lord. But You are here and the boy is there.'

'There is no barrier, no distance for My spirit.'