

The Woman Who Touched Jesus' Garment

Lesson Text: **Mark 5:25-34**

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Text: **Mark 5:21-34**

B. Jesus was on the way the home of Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, whose daughter lay ill, even to the point of death.

1. As He walked through the town with Jairus, a large noisy crowd thronged about Him.
2. In that crowd, retiring and making herself obscure, was a woman unnamed to Bible readers . . . nonetheless, the subject of our study.

C. Numbered among the 2,930 Bible characters, what do we know about this "Jane Doe" of Scripture.

CONSIDER WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THIS WOMAN

A. She likely was a younger woman since Jesus called her "daughter" rather than "woman."

B. She had a dreadful infirmity in her body . . . an issue of blood . . . a hemorrhage that would not end.

1. She was a victim of :
 - a. A chronic disability.
 - b. Nervous exhaustion.
 - c. A lingering and increasing loss of vitality
 - d. An embarrassing malady, to say the least

C. She was at her "rope's end."

1. Her physical malady had plagued her for twelve long years.
2. Each day of her life, her life was ebbing away.
3. She was slowly dying and to this point in her discomfort, had been unable to be helped.

D. Her not having been helped was not due to a lack of effort on her part.

1. She "had suffered many things of many physicians." **Mark 5:26** – "And had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse."

2. **Some ancient cures of women's blood problems.**

- a. Carrying the ashes of an ostrich egg in a linen rag in the summer, and in a cotton rag in the winter.
 - a. Dig seven ditches . . . burn shoots of grape vines therein . . . and let her drink wine by each ditch.
 - c. Set the patient where two roads meet and put a glass of wine in her hand, then let someone slip up behind her and frighten her.
3. Rabbi Joseph said: ". . . the best among physicians is destined for Gehenna . . ."

- E. She had spent all that she had . . . she was penniless . . . she was broke.
1. Such remedies, as the three previously mentioned, made none better . . . except the physician.
 2. She was spent both physically and mentally . . . as well as materially.
 3. She was none the better . . . She was even growing worse.
 4. Even brother and Dr. Luke admitted that she could not be helped by doctors. **Luke 8:43** – "Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any." Notice: "Could not" . . . Not "Had not." This is a doctor speaking . . . A Christian doctor who was being honest about her condition.
- F. The restrictions her sickness imposed.
1. According to **Leviticus 15:25-27**, her condition would have made her ceremonially unclean. "If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her customary impurity, or if it runs beyond her usual time of impurity, all the days of her unclean discharge shall be as the days of her customary impurity. She shall be unclean.
 26 Every bed on which she lies all the days of her discharge shall be to her as the bed of her impurity; and whatever she sits on shall be unclean, as the uncleanness of her impurity.
 27 Whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening."
 2. She was forbidden to enter the temple or a synagogue. She wanted to worship but was denied.
 3. She was unable to do the duties and enjoy the privileges of a wife with her husband.
 4. She would be ostracized as unclean by her fellow man.
 5. She had lived in appalling loneliness for 12 long years.
 6. Think of all the joys you have had . . . all the things you have done . . . and the places you have traveled to during the last twelve years of your life. All of these were denied to her during that same amount of time.
 7. In touching Jesus, she broke both religions laws and social rules which forbade such.
- G. Think about her timidity.
1. She was a poor shrinking creature, broken down by a long illness.
 2. She was depressed by at least two things:
 - a. The poverty which her sickness had brought upon her.
 - b. And her repeated disappointments from the doctors.
 3. Womanly diffidence (hesitant in acting or speaking through lack of self-confidence) . . . low social standing . . . religious and social barriers concerning women . . . and her special disease made her wish to hide herself. No doubt, she was well acquainted with depression.

4. Had people recognized her, they would have had to drive her out. Almost treated like a leper.
 5. She was forbidden to touch any priest. No priest would want to touch her.
- H. Consider her faith.
1. It was a great need that brought her to Christ.
 2. All else had failed . . . so in sheer despair she resolved to try Jesus.
 3. Her faith was real . . . but imperfect.
 - a. She had a deep desire to be healed.
 - b. She had a strong conviction that Jesus could heal her. She had great expectation and hope that it would happen.
 4. **It was not perfect faith . . . but a perfect Savior that healed her.**

CONSIDER THE LORD WHO HEALED HER

- A. Our Lord's primary mission on earth was to save lost souls from sin . . . and He clearly said so in **Luke 19:10** - "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
- B. Yet, He took time to minister to suffering humanity's needs.
1. Christ knew that you can often save a man's soul if you can save his life.
 2. He was never too busy to do a good deed for someone.
- C. Consider His great, unlimited power to heal.
1. He had the Holy Spirit without measure. John 3:34
 2. All power in Heaven and earth was His. Matthew 28:18
 3. Truly He was the Great Physician that this woman and all mankind needed.
- D. Note our Lord's sensitivity.
1. Not the smallest matter escaped His attention . . . He was Omniscient (all-knowing).
 2. The sensitivity of His uncorrupted body told Jesus He had just given some of His boundless life. "Virtue had gone out from Him."
 3. Observe His instant response to human need whether moral . . . spiritual . . . or physical.
 4. Listening friends, it is impossible for anyone to need Him without His knowledge of it. **Matthew 10:29-30** "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.
But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."
- E. Notice the calmness in the face of the many pressures and demands made upon our Savior. Though Jesus was on a life-saving mission for the daughter of Jarius, He took time to pause and help an afflicted soul.
- F. Note His tenderness:
1. He did not demand that she reveal the embarrassing nature of her illness.
 2. He called her "daughter", and endearing term of affection.
 3. He allayed her fears. "Be of good cheer." **Matthew 9:22**

4. He wanted both her body and her spirit to be healed permanently. "Go in peace" literally meant, "Go into peace."

G. Consider His garment.

1. A square outer cloak, with a blue border and a tassel at each corner.

Numbers 15:38-40 – "Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners.

39 And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them . . ."

1. The garment reminded them of their covenant duties.

2. The garment was important only because of its relationship to Jesus.

3. Her faith, not her finger, and Jesus' power, not His garment, made her whole.

CONSIDER THE MIRACLE THAT OCCURED

A. The Bible reveals that she was healed instantly.

B. She did not have to pay for her blessing.

C. It was a real miracle . . . the kind that could be verified.

D. This genuine miracle of healing is totally different from the alleged cures of the faith healers of today.

E. Miracles had three purposes:

1. To substantiate Christ's claims to Deity. John 5:36-37

2. To generate faith in the hearts of the people who observed them. John 20:30-21

3. To relieve suffering. Mark 1:40-42

CONSIDER HER CONFESSION

A. He did not ask the question for His own information.

B. She needed to know that it was Christ, and not the garment, that had healed her.

C. She needed to publicly confess Him . . . Why?

1. That men could know what Christ had done for her.

2. To provide a good example for other sinners.

3. To strengthen the faith of the disciples.

4. To deliver her from that unnecessary shame which would have kept her from enjoying her new-found deliverance by acknowledging her Savior.

D. Christ could not let her go with only her body healed and her spirit yet infirm.

1. She confessed Christ before men. Matthew 10:32

2. She likely received a double blessing that day.

a. Healing of the body.

b. Cleansing of her life.

CONSIDER SOME LESSONS TO BE REMEMBERED

- A. Suffering and pain bring people to God as nothing else does.
- B. Little trials of life make some people accuse Heaven. However, great sorrow and pain humble us before God
- C. This poor woman is a mirror . . . a looking glass . . . in which we may all see ourselves.
 - 1. We are all plagued with a terrible incurable sickness . . . SIN . . . that is wasting our lives and sapping our strength.
 - 2. All of our efforts and worldly doctors and their cures can never avail . . . In fact, they will make us worse.
 - 3. But if we can but touch the hem of His garment, so to speak, we shall be made whole.
- D. She resolved not to die if a cure could be found. So should we determine not to be lost since a cure for sin has been found . . . Provided by the Great Physician.
- E. Bodily presence near Jesus was not enough. Faith, accompanied with action, made her whole . . . Jesus was there, but she had to make the response toward Him.
 - 1. What if she had had faith but no action?
 - 2. What if she had put forth action but without faith?
 - 3. Two kinds of people touched Jesus that day.
 - a. Curious onlookers who pressed close to see.
 - b. But only this woman touched him in faith and was healed.
- F. Faith saves only when it accompanies obedience . . . Action. We are impressed with her obedient faith.
- G. **Like His garment, baptism and the church are important because of their relation to Christ.**
- H. **The world is full of religious "doctors" who drain away the wealth of their "patients" with no benefit to their souls.**
- I. Those who would help men today need the sensitivity and tenderness manifested by Jesus.
- J. **Faith, executed in obedience and courage, will be crowned with success . . . and glory.**
- K. Like that woman, we need to openly declare what the Lord has done for us.
Psalm 107:2 – "Let the redeemed of Jehovah say so."

CONCLUSION:

- A. Do not be afraid
 - 1. Do not be afraid to reach out in Biblical obedience and touch the Lord.
 - 2. Do not be afraid because of ignorance.
 - 3. Do not be afraid because of poverty.

4. Do not be afraid to tell God about all of your pain . . . suffering . . . and sorrow.
- B. Fear but one thing . . . that you let God's truths pass you by without reaching out and grasping them . . . **without taking hold of the healer of souls.** Ever reach forward to the One who can cleanse . . . save . . . and strengthen.
- C. Will you not obediently reach out to the Christ who has reached out to man across the centuries . . . and continues to do so today?

God Plan for Man's Salvation