

## 063024 "Your Faith Has Made You Well" Mark 5:25-34

1. Today, we gather to explore a profound story of faith and healing found in Mark 5:25-34. This passage tells the story of a woman who, despite facing immense challenges, exhibited a faith so powerful that it transformed her life completely.

First, let's consider the desperation of this woman. For twelve long years, she suffered from a condition that caused her continuous bleeding. This wasn't just a medical issue; it was also a social and religious burden. According to the Jewish laws of the time, her condition made her ceremonially unclean. This meant she was isolated from society, unable to participate in normal social and religious activities.

She had exhausted her resources seeking a cure. She had seen many doctors, spent all she had, and yet her condition only worsened. Her situation seemed hopeless. But in her desperation, she heard about Jesus.

Imagine for a moment what the scene looked like. There are hundreds of people on the streets, greeting and welcoming Jesus. 12 disciples surround him. People are shaking hands with Jesus, maybe some hugging Jesus, calling out His name. And in the midst of this hustle and bustle, this woman who was rejected, isolated, and put to suffering for the past twelve years approaches Jesus from the back.

Perhaps she wanted to give up when she saw the crowd – "if I get caught here, I'd be in big trouble! Should I go back? Should I come back later?" But her faith that she will be healed by simply touching the edge of His cloak leads her to reach out her hand. As she demonstrates, faith is transcending our human circumstances and putting ourselves in front of Jesus, believing that He is able. Unlike this woman, we may have tendency to give up, lose hope, or even not have any expectations from God, when we face difficulties and trials in life.

2. She touched the very edge of his cloak, but bleeding stopped not gradually but immediately. According to the thinking of the day, when this unclean woman touched Jesus, it would make Him unclean. But because of the **nature of Jesus and the power of God**, that wasn't how it worked. When she touched His garment, Jesus wasn't made unclean; the woman was made whole. When we come to Jesus with our sin and lay it upon Him, it doesn't make Him a sinner, but it makes us clean.

When the woman was healed, both the woman and Jesus knew it happened! She felt in her body that it happened, and Jesus felt power had gone out of Him. "And He looked around to see her who had done this thing." This was before she revealed herself. Jesus knew all along exactly who touched Him and received the healing. He asked, "Who touched My clothes?" **for the benefit of the woman**, not because He didn't know who the person was.

The disciples were amazed that Jesus asked this question. Given the situation, His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But the disciples didn't understand the difference between casual contact with Jesus and reaching out to touch Him in faith.

We can imagine someone who because of the press of the crowd bumped up against Jesus. When the woman's miracle was revealed, they might say, "I bumped into Jesus, I touched Him – yet I was not healed." But there is a huge difference between bumping into Jesus here and there and reaching out to touch Him in faith. You can come to church week after week and "bump into" Jesus. That isn't the same as **reaching out to touch Him in faith.**

Pastor Charles Spurgeon once said, "It is not every contact with Christ that saves men (and women); it is the arousing of yourself to come near to him, the determinate, the personal, resolute, believing touch of Jesus Christ which saves."

St. Augustine long ago said of this story, 'Flesh presses, faith touches.'... He can always distinguish between the jostle of a curious mob, and the agonized touch of a needy soul.

Jesus did it so that others would know she was healed. This woman had an ailment that no one could see and that made her a public outcast. It would sound suspicious to many if she just announced that she was healed. They would think that she made it up just to be considered "clean" again. **Jesus called her out so that others would absolutely know that she was healed.**

Jesus did it so that she would know why she was healed. When Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well," it showed the woman that it really wasn't touching the clothing of Jesus that healed her. Instead, **it was her faith in Jesus** and what He could do for her. **She received it by faith and Jesus wanted her to know that.**

**3. Jesus called her "Daughter."** Jesus never called any other person by this name. There are many stories in the Gospels and Jesus met many women, but he only called this woman "daughter." Jesus wanted her to come forth and hear this special name of tenderness. But why? As I mentioned earlier, the woman's bleeding disorder led to significant social and relational isolation, which could indeed have extended to being abandoned or marginalized by her family.

Given the cultural and religious context, her prolonged condition likely led to being ostracized not only by the community but potentially by her family as well. In such a situation, her relational hurt would be profound, as she would have faced not just physical suffering but emotional and psychological trauma from being treated as an outcast.

By calling her "daughter," Jesus is restoring her identity and dignity. He is counteracting years of rejection and isolation with a single word that reinstates her

value and worth. Jesus' miracles often address more than just physical ailments. By addressing her as "daughter," He is also healing her emotional and relational wounds. In calling her "daughter," Jesus also points to the deeper theological truth of God's fatherhood. It reassures her and people around her that despite any earthly abandonment she might have experienced, she has a place in the family of God. This divine acknowledgment offers profound spiritual and relational healing.

Dear beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, this woman's suffering extended beyond her physical ailment to include relational hurt. Jesus' unique use of "daughter" for this woman is thus a multifaceted act of healing that addresses her physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual needs. It is a beautiful demonstration of how Jesus' healing is holistic, touching every aspect of a person's life. The same goes for us today. What concerns and problems do you have? Come before the Lord in faith. Ask the Lord for His mercy and help. Then, the Lord will speak to you as well. "Your faith has made you well. Go in peace." Fairfield Grace, may God's grace, peace, goodness, and mercy be with you, your family, your business, your studies, and with the lives of your children. To Christ be thanks and praise. Amen.