

Your Faith Matters

Mark 5:21-34 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²¹ When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore. ²² One of the synagogue officials named Jairus **came up, and on seeing Him, *fell at His feet* ²³ and **implored Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live.”* ²⁴ And He went off with him; and a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him.

²⁵ A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, ²⁶ and had endured much at the hands of **many physicians**, and had **spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse**— ²⁷ **after hearing about Jesus**, she came up in the crowd behind Him and **touched His cloak**. ²⁸ For she thought, “If I just **touch His garments**, I will get well.” ²⁹ **Immediately** the flow of her blood was dried up; and she **felt in her body that she was healed** of her affliction. ³⁰ **Immediately** Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who **touched My garments?**” ³¹ **And His disciples said to Him, “You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’”** ³² And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. ³³ But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. ³⁴ And He said to her, “Daughter, **your faith has made you well**; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.”

Introduction

This morning, in our imagination, I am taking you back to the time of Jesus. Remember our theme for the church this year is “Walk with Jesus.” We are going to walk with Him and to follow Him wherever He goes. Today, Jesus is in a town where He was asked by a man named Jairus whose daughter was very sick, dying at home. The father earnestly implored Jesus to come and pray for her healing. Jesus said He would. On His way to Jairus’s house, something happens. Between Jesus and a woman. That’s what we are going to talk about this morning.

Content

I am going to lead you verse by verse beginning with verse 25.

v. 25: A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years,

Hemorrhage for 12 years. We do not know the exact nature of her problem, but one thing is for sure. Her bleeding problem persisted, and she never got cured. For 12 years. That's a long time. Verse 26.

v. 26: *and had endured much at the hands of **many physicians**, and had **spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse**—*

This verse tells us exactly what she was up against. She endured her suffering for twelve years, saw many physicians to no avail, spent all that she had, and ended up suffering more. No health insurance or charity help, mind you. Out of her own pocket, she had to pay for doctor's fees one after another and soon ran out the money. If she was cured, that's one thing, but she wasn't. Rather, she had grown worse. We know the feeling. We understand her frustration.

By the way, I am just curious if she was in her own town at the time. Or, did she travel to a different town following Jesus? Hard to tell. Here's the thing: had she been in her own town, everyone would have known about her hemorrhage. Socially, she would've been shunned by her own townsfolk. Why? Because, her problem would have kept everybody else away from her in the fear of becoming ceremonially 'unclean' before God and people based on Leviticus: *When a **woman** has a discharge, if her discharge in her body is **blood**, she shall continue in her menstrual impurity for seven days; **and** whoever touches her shall be unclean until evening (Leviticus 15:19).* Verses 27-28.

v. 27 - v. 28: *²⁷ **after hearing about Jesus**, she came up in the crowd behind Him and **touched His cloak.** ²⁸ For she thought, "If I just **touch His garments**, I will get well."*

One day, through the grapevine, she heard about Jesus the miracle Healer. Then, this day, a once in a blue moon chance finally arrived: Jesus was in town. She wouldn't miss it. Secretly approaching Jesus from behind, she touched the fringe of His garments.

Touching Jesus' garments: Back in Jesus' times, it must have been a collective understanding and practice among the sick that whoever touches the fringe of His garments would be cured from their illness (Matthew 14:34-36). Check this out in Mark 6:56: *Wherever He entered villages, or cities, or countryside, they were laying the sick in the market places, and imploring Him that they might just touch the **fringe** of His cloak; and **as many as touched it were being cured.***

A little background info on the fringes of Jesus' garments. I will show you the picture of the garment on the screen. The garment is called 'tallit' in Hebrew, known to us

as a Prayer Shawl. The fringes of the garment are called ‘tsitsit’ (plural) in Hebrew and translated in English as tassels. It is well described in the Book of Numbers 15:37-40: ³⁷ *The Lord also spoke to Moses, saying,* ³⁸ *“Speak to the sons of Israel, and tell them that they shall make for themselves **tassels** on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and that they shall put on the tassel of each corner a cord of blue.* ³⁹ *It shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the Lord, so as to do them and not follow after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you played the harlot,* ⁴⁰ *so that you may remember to do all My commandments and be holy to your God.”* The woman touched one of the tassels on Jesus’ prayer shawl. Verses 29-30.

v. 29- v. 30: ²⁹ **Immediately** the flow of her blood was dried up; and she **felt in her body that she was healed** of her affliction. ³⁰ **Immediately** Jesus, **perceiving in Himself** that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who **touched** My garments?”

Immediately: it was repeated twice. Once for the woman who touched Jesus and the other time for Jesus Himself. As soon as she touched His garments, the miracle power came into her body. Healing took place instantly. Her body knew it. Immediately. As soon as Jesus was touched, the power of healing proceeded from Him. Jesus too perceived that in Himself. Immediately. It’s like an electric plug. As soon as you plug in, power proceeds from the outlet into your device. Immediately.

Then, Jesus stopped walking, turned around in the crowd, and asked, “Who touched My garments?”

Who touched My garments? I imagine if I touch anyone today without their consent in this lockdown, nobody would welcome it. In fact, some folks would never speak to me again. Touching them without consent. Touching them from behind. Yet, the tone of Jesus in today’s verse in which Jesus spoke to her “Who touched My garments?” seems gentle and kind. Verse 31.

v. 31: **And His disciples said to Him, “You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’”**

Isn’t that interesting the way Jesus’ disciples explained to Jesus? *Master, You see all these people pressing in on You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’*

This is my best guess: if the crowd pressed in on Jesus, as the disciples explained, some people must have brushed against Jesus’ garments as well. Yet, nothing is recorded in

today's text of what had happened to those who have pressed in on Jesus except the woman. The lesson? **You will not notice any power of Jesus coming to you unless you expect it to happen to you.** We call it faith. I bet it was the disciples who were closest to Jesus brushing their own garments constantly against that of Jesus. Yet, nothing they noticed because they did not expect anything from Jesus or from touching His garments. Only the woman who touched Jesus' garments with prayer and hope to get healed noticed the difference. Immediately. That's what the faith does to you. Verse 32.

v. 32: *And He looked around to see the woman who had done this.*

Jesus Looking around. He must have known who had touched Him. Luke 8:46-47 further explains this. Looking around, *Jesus said, "Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me."* Verses 33-34.

v. 33: *But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.*

She "declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed" (Luke 8:47).

v. 34: *And He said to her, "Daughter, **your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.**"*

Your faith: Not the faith of Jesus. Not the faith of Jesus' disciples. Not the faith of your wife or husband. Not the faith of your mom or dad. Nor anybody else's but yours. Your faith matters! Consider the woman's faith. She has come up with her own way of healing. *If I touch, I will be healed.* That faith came from herself. Remember, healing takes place when two parties meet in the middle. God's miraculous powers meet your faith. Then, healing takes place. Keep in mind, whenever people came to Jesus for healing, He asked them if they believed that He could. Every one of them said, Yes. Then, Jesus said, it will be done as you believe. *Your faith has made you well.* Your faith matters.

Conclusion

Verse 34. **Faith, Peace, and Healing:** As for closing, let's listen to Jesus one more time, "Your **faith** has made you well; go in **peace** and **be healed** of your affliction." Notice here the order of the words: Faith, Peace, and Healing. Faith, your faith in Jesus, leads the way. Let us bow our heads and pray.