

It is Time to Touch Jesus Again

Opening Text: Mark 5:25-34

V34 – “And He said to her, “*daughter, your faith has made you **well**. God in **peace** and be **healed** of your affliction*”.

Well, in peace and healed! What an outcome for someone who prior to this encounter had so much working against her:

- She lived diseased.
- It was a prolonged condition, and quite a debilitating one. Can you imagine the kind of chronic fatigue she endured for all those long 12 years?
- There was no improvement to her condition, in fact she was only getting worse – her body was deteriorating with the severity of her anaemia and frailty.
- Her situation seemed beyond any human or medical help. She had been to “*many physicians*” and suffered many things.
- *She spent all that she had* - to the last coin.
- Also, according to the Levitical Law she was considered unclean and untouchable (Le. 15:19-26). She would have lived mostly isolated from friends and family.

How do you bounce back from that and be *well, in peace and healed*? How do you rise above such deep disappointment to a place of strong faith and hope?

1. She heard

V. 27 – “*When she heard about Jesus*”

- a) When did things start to change for her? Firstly, **when** she heard!

Isaiah 55:3a - “*Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live;*

Romans 10:17 - *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

- b) When she heard about Jesus!

Nothing will supercharge your faith like hearing about Jesus!

John 20:30-31 - *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but **these are written that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

Stories like this one describe the encounter of a desperate woman with a powerful Jesus, and they were written specifically to build our faith.

I don't think many people invest enough of their time "hearing about Jesus". They will most likely listen to 10 podcasts and read as many articles from Google about their condition, but they don't hear nearly enough about the Great Physician.

She heard about Jesus! She focused on listening to the right thing.

c) The principle of "no-deposit, no-return"

You can never withdraw faith from your heart, without first making deposits of the Word.

If we want to have the faith of this woman, we need to do what she did: she listened to the report of Jesus of Nazareth.

2. She came

27 - When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.

She heard ... and she came.

a) Some people don't go far enough:

- They're either passive – they **need** but they don't **come**
- Or they quit way too early in the game – notice that the woman came **and** she touched the fringes of Jesus' prayer shawl! She went all the way and took hold of the tassels of the tallit.

(This is what it means when we read Malachi 4:2 about God coming *with healing in His wings* - it may be a reference to the fringes of the prayer shawl)

b) Again, this woman had a lot to overcome to get there:

- She had to deal with a crowd pressing Jesus,
- She had to break some rules (she was unclean according to Leviticus)
- She came from behind – she was 'behind' in a lot of ways: she had lived 12 years disadvantaged. Everyone else seemed to always be getting ahead in life but she couldn't.

Faith without corresponding actions is dead. She did something. She didn't just hope something would happen to her, she wasn't passive, she took a step of faith and she came to Jesus.

3. She said

V.28 - *For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."*

Faith is released by our actions and by our words. She said ... *I shall be made well!*

2 Corinthians 4:13 - *And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,*

This woman definitely had the spirit of faith.

Mark 11:23-24 - *²³ For assuredly, I **say** to you, whoever **says** to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he **says** will be done, he will have whatever he **says**. ²⁴ Therefore I **say** to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

Sometimes we undo our own prayer by speaking opposite to what we prayed, and opposite to the promises of God.

4. She felt

V.29 - *²⁹ Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and **she felt** in her body that she was healed of the affliction*

- She heard,
- She came,
- She said,
- And finally ... *She felt!* Finally, she received the manifestation of her healing.

She had to **come**, before she felt,
She had to **believe**, before she felt,
She had to **say**, before she felt.

This is the order of any miracle: we have to believe first - before we feel, and before we see. We walk by faith and not by sight.

Conclusion

12 years of suffering came to an end. This was now a new year – a year to be well, in peace and healed!

A new year, a new season of blessing can start today for you as well. You have heard about Jesus today, will you now come to Him? I believe that it is time to touch Jesus again!