

SERMON: A TOUCHING STORY

Mark 5:25-34

(25) And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, (26) And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing better, but rather grew worse. (27) When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. (28) For she said, If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be made whole. (29) And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. (30) And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that virtue had gone out of Him, turned Him about in the press, and said, who touched My clothes? (31) And His disciples said unto Him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? (32) And He looked around about to see her that had done this thing. (33) But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before Him, and told Him all the truth. (34) And He said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Introduction

Jesus was moving slowly towards the house of Jairus to heal his twelve year old daughter. It was necessarily a slow progress for the streets were narrow and filled with a curious crowd of people who did not want to miss anything that Jesus, the Miracle Worker, might do or say. Then, this woman pushed her way through the crowd, reached out and touched for a moment the hem of His robe. What was she doing in the crowd? She certainly should not have been there; for she was suffering from a malady which rendered her unclean and cut her off from public worship and social interaction. Her case had been pronounced incurable by the physicians of her day. This day would end the misery that lasted twelve years. This day she found healing and salvation at the hands of the Great Physician as she touched the hem of His garment. The Great Physician gave her excellent free medical care. This is a very familiar story to most of us, but it never loses its power to inspire and give hope. I will quote Charles Spurgeon one more time. "It's the same soup warmed over and we dare not change the recipe." Let me add my two cents' worth: it is very good soup-no junk food here! Let's look more closely at some of the details of this beautiful narrative.

Exposition

1. A Desperate Dilemma
(There Seemed To Have Been No Options Left)
(Everything She Tried Had Failed)
2. A Delicate Difficulty
(A Problem of Excess)
(What Should Happen Sometimes, Occurred All the Time)
(Her problem was both debilitating and embarrassing)

3. A Depletion of Resources
 (Her Health Was Gone)
 (Her Money Was Gone)
 (Her Social Contacts Were Gone-She Was Unclean)
 (Her Religious Privileges Were Gone)
4. A Determined Attitude and Daring Action
 (She Left Her Home and Pressed Her Way through the Crowd)
5. A Divine Deliverance by the Master
 (Upon Touching His Garment She Was Healed Immediately)
 (Jesus Did What No One Else Had Been Able To Do)
 (She Was the Only One in the Crowd Who Was Healed)
 (You Can Be in the Crowd, But Not Close To Jesus)
6. A Demanding Question by the Master
 (Who Touched Me?)
 (She Was Not Just Another Face In The Crowd)
 (Jesus Gave Her Personalized Attention)
7. A Dramatic Declaration Insisted by the Master
 (Jesus Insisted That She Tell Her Story)
 (Your Story or Testimony Will Help Somebody Else)

Closing Thoughts

Here was a woman who had sorrow after sorrow and trouble on top of trouble. It is great trials that drive us to God. The little trials do not easily send us to God. The lesser troubles often make us complain, whine, murmur, and accuse heaven; however, the great sorrows make us run to Him and plead for help. Upon hearing about Jesus sudden hope sprang up in her weary heart. She put her faith into action and was healed instantly. Her healing was both physical and spiritual. She used her feet and her fingers to exercise her faith. Faith without works is dead. She had living faith. It was the touch of faith that connected her need with the resources of the Savior. Give God glory! Give God all the glory!

Related Scriptures

Matthew 9:20-23
 Luke 8:43-48

End Notes

1. The garment referred to in verse twenty-seven was the plaid-like outer robes of the Hebrews. Attached to the four corners of the garment by a cord of blue-purple were tassels of twisted or plaited threads. It was one of these tassels that the lady timidly

touched. These tassels have a curious history. They were worn by Jews in accordance with the ordinance of Numbers 15:37-41, where the command is given that they are to make them fringes in the borders; or to put it another way, they are to make tassels in the corners. These tassels were to be worn through the generations. The object of this ordinance was to furnish the Jews a visible reminder of their obligation as God's chosen people, to keep His commandments. This lady started something and the people around Gennesaret used the same "spiritual strategy." See Matthew 14:34-36 and Mark 6:53-56.

2. Eusebius, the earliest of our church historians had a lot to say about this lady. He even researched and discovered her name was Veronica and she lived in Caesarea of Philippi. She became somewhat of a local hero-or should I say "shero." They built a statue there depicting her touching the hem of Jesus' garment. Eusebius records in his treatise, *Ecclesiastical History*, that he actually visited the statue himself. He mentioned one thing that really lets the reader know how destitute this lady was. Please don't get queasy on me! I mean no disrespect! In that culture a woman with no support from a father, brother, or husband had no choice but to become a prostitute. The Roman soldiers patronize them often. Eusebius stated that with her medical malady she could not even qualify to become a prostitute. Think about it! When you can't even qualify to be a prostitute, that is about as low as you can sink. Think about that again! This was, of course, before she met Jesus. I hope I did not offend anyone. Let me make this very clear. Eusebius is a pretty reliable source of church history. Many commentaries quote him, but his words are not the "Gospel Truth." Only the gospels have the "Gospel Truth."

3. It is amazing how theatrical and musical the Greek language is. The phrase "told Him all the truth" in verse thirty-three is the same wording used to describe an actor on the stage delivering a soliloquy. You know from your English Literature classes that a soliloquy is a dramatic convention in which a character in a play, alone on stage, speaks his or her thoughts aloud. The soliloquy provides the audience with information about the character's motives, plans, and state of mind, to explain earlier events and actions that have occurred offstage, or to fill in other necessary background information. Undoubtedly, the most famous soliloquy in all English drama is Hamlet's "To be, or not to be" speech. Jesus made this shy lady come to center stage and deliver a soliloquy about her life's journey. Pun intended-Jesus made her a "drama queen." He made her the right kind of "drama queen."

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