

MINISTERING ON HIS WAY TO MINISTRY
A PARENTHETICAL MIRACLE
REACH OUT AND TOUCH JESUS

Mark 5:25-34
April 3, 2011

INTRODUCTION: Matthew and Luke also record this story. You can't help but notice the contrast of two characters in this story. One is a man named Jairus, the other an anonymous woman. Jairus was an important and wealthy synagogue officer, the woman a person of destitution and sickness; yet, Jesus welcomed them both.

Jairus was about to lose a daughter who had given him 12 years of happiness, and the woman was about to lose an affliction that had brought her 12 years of sorrow. Jesus, on the way to bless one person, blesses another. It almost appears to be an unfortunate and unwarrantable interference and interruption.

This story will teach us that "*no one is ever blessed at the expense of another.*" What we regard as an *interruption* may be *Divine intervention*.

Today, we will focus on the anonymous woman who came to Jesus as a last resort.

"This story laid hold on the heart and the imagination of the early church. It was believed that the woman was a Gentile from Caesarea Philippi. Eusebius, the great church historian (A.D. 300), relates how it was said that the woman had at her cost erected a statue commemorating her cure in her native city. It was said that the statue remained there until Julian, the Roman Emperor who tried to bring back the pagan gods, destroyed it and erected his own in place of it, only to see his own statue blasted by a thunderbolt from God.

William Barclay

A. A DESPERATE PERSON. 25-26

A. HIS CARE. 25 (Character/Commission)

NOTE: Addressed simply as "**a certain woman**"

Jesus cares for ordinary people; no insignificant people to Jesus.

For Jesus, no one is ever *lost in the crowd*. W.B. Yeats once wrote in one of his moments of mystical beauty, "*The love of God is infinite for every human soul, because every human soul is unique. God gives all of Himself to each individual person.*"

The world is not like that (and at times, neither am I). The world is apt to divide people into those who are important and those who are not important.

In "**A Night to Remember,**" Walter Lord tells in detail the story of the sinking of the Titanic in April, 1912. There was an appalling loss of life when that new and supposedly unsinkable liner hit an iceberg in the middle of the Atlantic. After the tragedy had been announced, the New York newspaper, ***The American***, devoted a lead writer to it. The leader was devoted entirely to the death of John Jacob Astor, the millionaire. The other 1,800 were of no real importance.

God is not like that. No wonder **Mark 12:37** says, **“the common man heard Him gladly”**

We see in this text that it is the reflection of the love of God which allows no man to be lost in the crowd.

To Jesus, this woman was not lost in the crowd; in her hour of need, to Him she was all that mattered. Jesus is like that for every one of us. Love never thinks of people in terms of human importance.

B. HER CONCERN. 25-26

“issue of blood” – some translate plague (whip)

- ◆ **It sapped her strength**
- ◆ **It deprived her of motherhood**
- ◆ **It embarrassed her socially**
- ◆ **It ostracized her from other people**
- ◆ **It barred her from worship**

Lev. 15:19-23, she was ceremonially unclean.

“spent all she had”

This is a picture of what sin does in a life. **Sin** never gives; it always takes away. **Sin** never adds to life; it always diminishes a life. **Sin** will rob you of your **health**, your **home**, and your **happiness**.

II. A DETERMINED PERSON. 27-29

You would think she would have given up on ever being helped.

A. SHE WAS STILL LISTENING. 27

“when she heard about Jesus” – it’s wonderful when word gets around about Jesus.

The Lord used stories of changed lives to get my attention to some degree; Alfred and Drew.

*It is no secret what God can do
What He’s done for others,
He’ll do for you.
With arms wide open,
He’ll pardon you.
It is no secret what God can do.*

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

People are ***listening*** and ***watching***

B. SHE WAS STILL BELIEVING. 27-29

v.28 She said **“If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.”** She said this over and over again to herself. Her expectations seem to have been almost superstitious.

GREAT TRUTH: Jesus ministers to even those of *feeble faith* (the grain of a mustard seed).

It is one thing to give up on *others*; it’s another thing to give up on *yourself*.

*A new day was about to dawn
I have tried, and tried in vain,
Many ways to ease my pain;
Now all other hope is past,
Only this is left at last;
Here before Thy cross I lie;
Here I live, or here I die.*

III. A DELIVERED PERSON. 30-34

A. HIS POWER. 30-31

“power had gone out of Him” – blessing is costly to the Blessor. Speaks of the sensitivity of Jesus which causes Him to feel the difference between an anxious touch of faith and the casual bumps of the crowd.

Both she and Jesus felt the effect of her touch. Jesus knows our hearts!

No one who comes to Christ in faith will escape His notice. She was acknowledging her problem and saw Jesus as her solution. Faith had been the life-line between the Lord’s sufficiency and the woman’s need. Life had gone out of Him to solve the very real problem of an impoverished soul. Had she not come to Him, she would have carried her burden to the grave.

vv.30-31 helps us to see clearly that there is a **MAJOR DIFFERENCE** between those **“thronging Jesus”** and those **“touching Jesus.”**

“*You cannot touch Jesus without being touched by Him.*”

In Jesus’ earthly ministry, *thousands* came into contact with Him, *hundreds* talked with Him and rubbed shoulders with Him, yet many of them were not *touched* by Him. Some could speak of their close contact with Him, maybe mere religious curiosity or a sense of adventure.

We need, ***in faith,*** to **“*reach out and touch Him.*”**

- ◆ ***Faith Alone***
- ◆ ***Christ Alone***
- ◆ ***Grace Alone***

B. HER PROFESSION. 32-33

Why call her out?

- **He wanted her to know Him as not just a Healer, but Savior and Friend**
- **He wanted her to look into His eyes of tenderness and hear His personal loving words**
- **He wanted to encourage her and others (Jairus)**
- **He was giving her a chance to witness/testify**

Psalms 50:15

**“Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”**

Psalms 107:2

**“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy”**

Psalms 107:20-21

**“He sent His word and healed them,
And delivered them from their destructions.
Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!”**

C. HIS PROCLAMATION. 34

Her **plague** had met His **power** and she received His **peace**

1. FAMILY.

“Daughter” – only time He used this designation; affection/relationship

2. FAITH.

Genuine and acceptable to the Lord

D. FEATURES OF FAMILY & FAITH.

“Peace” – You have a brand new life

Romans 5:1, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

“healed” - (sozo) being saved from sin. He takes our sin and gives us salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:21, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”