

17. Jesus Healed a Woman Who Touched Him

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain that Jesus came to change and transform lives today, just as He changed the life of the man that had been demon-possessed. We saw that the people of the surrounding area were filled with fear and asked Jesus to leave their area. Jesus then got into a boat and left the area. We will see what happened when Jesus reached the other side of the sea.

Mark 5:21-24 says, “Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, ‘My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.’ So *Jesus* went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.” As we see in these verses, a large crowd of people were waiting for Jesus when He returned. The people on this side of the Sea of Galilee had heard the teaching of Jesus and were ready to hear more.

We see that one of the rulers of the synagogue named Jairus came to Jesus with a request. The rulers of the synagogue were the group of elders who were responsible for all of the things that happened in the synagogue, including the arranging of the services in the synagogue. We see that Jairus came looking for Jesus. When Jairus saw Jesus, he immediately fell at the feet of Jesus to make his request. When a person fell at the feet of another, it was an act of worship. Acts 10:25-26 says, “As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped *him*. But Peter lifted him up, saying, ‘Stand up; I myself am also a man.’” Here, we see that Peter did not want to be worshiped in this way, because he felt this act of worship should be reserved for God. It is possible that Jairus might have been showing that he recognized that Jesus is God.

However, the words that Jairus then spoke showed that Jairus at least recognized that Jesus had the power to heal. Jairus said, “My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.” This statement shows that Jairus did not realize that Jesus could have healed his daughter by just speaking the word. Jesus illustrated that power when he said to a nobleman, in John 4:50, “‘Go your way; your son lives.’ So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.” In that case, the nobleman believed, and a servant met him on the way home to tell him that his son was healed. Jairus did realize that Jesus could touch his daughter and she would live. A very large crowd of people followed Jesus and Jairus as they began to walk toward his house.

However, as they were on their way to the house of Jairus, something happened to slow their progress. Mark 5:25-28 says, “Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind *Him* in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, ‘If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.’” Here, we see that this woman also believed Jesus could heal. We see that this woman had a flow of blood that had lasted for twelve years. This was both a serious physical and religious problem.

As a physical problem, it meant that she was losing blood internally, which would make her very weak. The woman had gone to many different doctors. Luke 8:43 says, “Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any.” Since Luke was a doctor, this means that the other doctors felt her condition could not be cured, because they had tried every possible treatment they knew. As a result, she had lived in a hopeless condition for years. Regardless of what the various doctors had tried, her condition had just become worse.

It was a religious problem, because Leviticus 15:25-27 says, “If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her *customary* impurity, or if it runs beyond her *usual time* of impurity, all the days of her unclean discharge shall be as the days of her *customary impurity*. She *shall* be unclean. Every bed on which she lies all the days of her discharge shall be to her as the bed of her impurity; and whatever she sits on shall be unclean, as the uncleanness of her impurity. Whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.” Here, we see that the woman, and any bed she used, were considered unclean. This meant she could not enter the synagogue or the temple and also meant that even her own family may have avoided her. As a result, she desperately wanted to be healed.

The woman did not feel that she could ask Jesus to touch her to heal her, because Leviticus said that would have made Jesus unclean, and He would have had to bathe and wash his clothes. However, she had heard about Jesus and believed that He could heal her. As a result, she came up in the crowd behind Jesus and touched his robe. Mark tells us that she had said within herself, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.” Here, we see that she had faith that just touching the robe of Jesus would cause her to be healed of this condition which none of the doctors could heal.

We see that God rewarded her faith. Mark 5:29-34 says, “Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, ‘Who touched My clothes?’ But His disciples said to Him, ‘You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, “Who touched Me?”’ And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.’” Jesus knew what had happened, but He wanted to honor the faith of the woman.

We see that the woman recognized a change as soon as she touched the hem of the robe of Jesus. The source of her bleeding was immediately stopped, and she was healed. The woman felt an immediate change in her body. As mentioned above, such bleeding causes a person to feel very weak. Suddenly, this woman felt renewed strength and knew that the bleeding was stopped. At that moment, she knew that she had been healed of her affliction and was filled with joy. However, Jesus also knew that power had gone out of His body. He knew that the woman had been healed. Jesus chose to honor the faith of the woman in front of the entire crowd of people that were

following Him that day.

Jesus stopped and turned around to face the crowd that was following Him. Then, Jesus asked the question, “Who touched My clothes?” In contrast, the disciples did not know what had happened or that Jesus wanted to honor the faith of the woman. As a result, the disciples told Jesus that there was a large crowd pressing toward Him from all sides. That meant a number of people had touched Jesus. The disciples could not understand why Jesus had asked, “Who touched Me?” Jesus looked around at the crowd and then looked particularly at the woman who had been healed.

The woman became filled with fear as Jesus kept looking at her. In fact, in her fear, she even started to shake. She knew she had been healed, and, knowing that Leviticus said that would make Him unclean, probably thought that Jesus was upset with her for touching His clothes. As a result, the woman came and fell down in front of Jesus. We read that she told Jesus the whole truth. Remember that Jairus was concerned about his daughter, yet here, Jesus took time to let the woman tell all about the suffering she had gone through the previous twelve years. She probably told how she thought that if she could just touch the hem of the robe of Jesus, she would be healed. She then explained that she had felt an immediate change in her body as soon as she touched the robe of Jesus. He allowed her to finish her whole story.

Then, Jesus spoke to the woman and called her daughter. Jesus told her that her faith had made her well. The word translated “has made you whole” is the word that is normally translated “save.” Matthew 1:21 says, “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” Christ used the same word when He spoke to Zacchaeus, in Luke 19:10, and said, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” The word is used again in Romans 10:9 and 13, which say, “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’” These verses all make it clear that the woman received spiritual life by faith that day, in addition to physical healing.

Jesus told this woman that she could now return to her home in peace. Philippians 4:6-7 says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” She had received spiritual healing, as well as physical healing. Then, Jesus assured her of the fact that she was healed of her physical affliction.

We also want to help our physical and spiritual children learn how to explain to others how they can receive spiritual life that will give them this inner peace that passes all understanding. They will receive that spiritual life when they repent of their sin of unbelief and place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to share the message of peace with others.