

MATTHEW 9:20-22 – A WOMAN HEALED!

10/10/15 Sat Morn Prayer – ptwente@gmail.com

Mat 9:20 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. [21] For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." [22] But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour. (also given in Mark 5:22-34 & Luke 8:41-56)

FOLLOWING A SERIES OF MIRACLES, AND HAVING JAIRUS' PLEA TO HAVE JESUS COME TO HIS DYING DAUGHTER, WE NOW COME TO AN INTERRUPTION BY A WOMAN DESPERATELY WANTING JUST TO TOUCH JESUS' GARMENT FOR HER HEALING FROM A 12 YEAR ISSUE OF BLOOD!

Mat 9:20 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.

- “**suddenly**” – *idou* – prompter of attention, behold, look see – by introducing something new or unusual, an interruption!
- Another interruption! This time it was **a woman** who had suffered from a **flow** or hemorrhage **for twelve years**. Jesus was never annoyed by such interruptions; He was always **poised, accessible, and approachable**. What an **example and lesson for us!**
- **A woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years** - Because this woman was hemorrhaging, she would have been **unable to go to the temple to worship**, and **she would have been considered unclean and defiled** by her community. Lev 15:25-28 *'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. [26] 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. [27] Whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. [28] 'But if she is cleansed of her discharge, then she shall count for herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean.*
- Notice the parallel: A twelve-year-old girl, full of life, light, and laughter, was suddenly dying, and a woman, who, for the same twelve years, full of darkness, disease, and depression, was on the verge of being healed.
- Perhaps for the past twelve years, your life has gone relatively well. Life has been good. God has been gracious. But we don't know what the next hour holds. There is no guarantee that in the next hour we won't meet with the greatest tragedy, the biggest challenge of our life.
- Like Jairus, you who perhaps for twelve years have been doing so well, might suddenly find yourself face-to-face with despair. So, too, for the past twelve years if you have been battling discouragement, depression, and disease, know this: You don't know what the next moment holds. The Lord can do something suddenly that will blow your mind and bring an end to your despair.
- **came from behind** - Through modesty, being ashamed to come before Him, and tell Him her case, especially before so many people; having great fear that if her case was known, she would be thrust away, if not by Christ, yet by the crowd of people; in that according to the law, she was **an unclean person, and unfit for society –an outcast!**
- **touched the hem of His garment** - - **The tsitsith, or fringes, which the Jews were commanded to wear on their garments.** Num 15:38-40 *"Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. [39] And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, [40] and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God.*

[21] For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."

- Her disorder was of that delicate nature that modesty prevented her to make any public acknowledgment of it; and therefore she endeavored to transact the whole business in private. Besides, the touch of such a person was by the law reputed unclean.
- By faith in Christ Jesus, little things are often rendered so important and effective to our salvation. What more simple than a morsel of bread, and a few drops of wine, in the Lord's Supper! And yet, they who receive them by faith in the sacrifice they represent, are made partakers of the blessings purchased by the crucified body and

spilled blood of the Lord Jesus!

[22] But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

- **But Jesus turned around** - Knowing what was done behind Him, that virtue was gone out of Him, that the woman had touched Him, and was healed; which is a clear proof of His omniscience, and so of His deity: not that He was angry with her for touching Him, though she was an impure woman; for though men and garments were defiled by the touch of an unclean person; yet such was the power and holiness of Christ, that as He could not be defiled by any such means, so hereby, at once, this woman's impurity was also removed: but Christ turned about to observe and point out the woman, and her cure, to the company; not for the sake of his own honor, but **for the glory of God**, the commendation of the woman's faith, and chiefly for the strengthening the faith of Jairus, with whom He was going to raise His daughter from the dead:
- **He said, be of good comfort, daughter, your faith has made you well.** He addressed her in a kind and tender manner, **calling her "daughter"** – **the only time in the Scriptures**, Jesus so addressed a woman – a courteous way of speaking, which showed His affection and His relation; and bidding her take heart and be of good cheer, since He meant no blame her for what she had done, but to commend her faith in Him, whereby she had received a cure: meaning, not that there was such virtue in her faith as to effect such a cure; but that He, the object of her faith, had performed it for her. She did not "take" but He gave the cure to her.
- **and the woman was made well from that hour;** her disease immediately left her, and from that time forward, was no more troubled with it: the cure was so effectual, and so perfect, that the disorder never returned more.

SUMMARY: What to do in times of great need, but being in an outcast position?

- **As the woman with the 12 year blood hemorrhage**, being an outcast of society, not allowed in public or to have any contact, having exhausted all medical avenues, but hearing that Jesus was near, what would you do?
- **Would you be willing to be exposed, publicly humiliated or worse by going to Him?**
- **Would you have enough faith to believe that if you could only "touch His garment", that you would be healed?**
- **Would you approach Him from behind? How would you respond when He asked, "who touched Me?"**
- **Why do you think Jesus publicly announced that she was healed – that her faith had made her well?**
- **In such a situation as today's study, how would your patience, compassion and willingness compare with that shown by Jesus?**
- **What a Savior! – Just to touch Him and because of faith, to be healed!!!**

Holy, Holy, Holy- London Festival Orchestra

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity. AMEN!

AMAZING GRACE! – Newton – Billy Graham Choir

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

When we've been there ten thousand years Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we've first begun.