
The Healing Of A Woman With A Blood Hemorrhage

Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48

Following the exorcism of the man of **Gadara**, **Jesus** and the **apostles** would again cross over the **Sea of Galilee**, and a multitude of people gathered unto Him (**Mark 5:21; Luke 8:40**). Out of this multitude came a ruler of one of the synagogues by the name of **Jairus** pleading with **Jesus** on behalf of his daughter who was sick and dying (**Mark 5:22-23**). **Jesus** began to make His way to the house of **Jairus** to heal his daughter. **Mark** records “*And Jesus went with him (Jairus) and much people followed Him, and thronged (crowded and swarmed) Him*” (**Mark 5:24**). As the multitude of people and **Jesus** were proceeding to the house of **Jairus**, and as the news spread that **Jesus** was going to perform a miracle of healing upon the daughter of **Jairus**, no doubt, the crowd grew rapidly and continued to grow. We get the picture of a very large crowd of people packed into a narrow street!

As **Jesus** and this crowd of people make their way to the house of **Jairus**; **Matthew**, **Mark**, and **Luke** all draw attention to a particular woman (**Matthew 9:20; Mark 5:25; Luke 8:43**). THE PROCESSION WAS INTERRUPTED BY A WOMAN WHO LIKE JAIRUS WAS DESPERATE FOR A MIRACLE IN HER LIFE! This woman’s story is a picture of **the salvation of a sinner!** This woman’s story will stand forever as a **testimony of faith and perseverance in the face of obstacles**, and as an illustration of one who **had a personal experience of Christ**, rather than a mere curiosity seeker!

I. THE CONDITION OF THIS WOMAN

This woman’s condition is emblematic of the **unsaved sinner**, and also the condition that a **saved** person can fall into.

① **This Woman Had A Very Real And Serious Need:**

Everyone in that crowd had very **real** and **serious** needs, but the difference was, **SHE WAS PAINFULLY AWARE OF HER NEED!** **Matthew**, **Mark**, and **Luke** each record that this woman had “*an issue (flow) of blood*” (**Matthew 9:20; Mark 5:25; Luke 8:43**). This “*issue (flow) of blood*” seems to be a gynecological flow of blood, and would have made her ceremonially **unclean (Leviticus 15:25)**. **SHE WAS AN OUTCAST!** Her condition caused her to be an outcast to her **family**, to her **friends**, and from the place of **worship!** **SHE WAS OSTRACIZED FROM EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING!** Such would cause **loneliness**, and great **emotional** and **psychological** pain! **Matthew** records that she “*was diseased (ailing and contaminated) with an issue of blood*” (**Matthew 9:20**). **Mark** refers to this “*issue of blood*” as a “*plague*” (**verse 29**). A

“plague” is “an infestation, that which is tormenting, and ravages the body” Her need was **great**, her need was **real**, and her need was very **serious** and **desperate!**

② This Woman’s Condition Was Continuous:

Matthew, Mark, and Luke each record that she had this “*issue (flow) of blood twelve years*” (**Matthew 9:20; Mark 5:25; Luke 8:43**). For **twelve** long years she **suffered!** For **twelve** years she was in **anguish, distress, misery, heartache, and desolation!** For **twelve** years she was an **outcast!** For **twelve** years she was **vexed** and **tormented** physically, emotionally and spiritually! For **twelve** years she awoke to a life of **suffering, sorrow, and loneliness!**

③ This Woman Had Many Vain Attempts At Healing:

Mark states this (**Mark 5:26**), and **Luke** records concerning this that she “*had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any*” (**Luke 8:43**). Adding to her **distress, misery, and heartache**, was the fact that **HER HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS WERE CRUSHED OVER AND OVER AGAIN!** For **twelve** years she had the hope of getting better, the hope of finding a cure, the hope that her life would be put back together, **BUT SHE WENT TWELVE YEARS WITHOUT REMEDY TO HER PROBLEM!** For **twelve** years she was **disappointed** over and over again! On top of all the **sorrow**, all the **anguish**, all the **heartache**, all the **torment**, all the **loneliness** **SHE HAD NOTHING!** **Mark** states that she had “*spent all that she had*” (**Mark 5:26**), and **Luke** records that she had “*spent all her living*” (**Luke 8:43**) **HER HEALTH AND HER MONEY IS GONE!** And on top of all that, **she had tried everything that she could think of, and she is getting worse with each passing day!** **Mark** states that she “*was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse*” (**Mark 5:26**). **HER LIFE IS WITHERING AWAY, AND HER VERY EXISTENCE HAD BECOME ONE OF SUFFERING, ANGUISH, AND GRIEF!**

This woman was **physically** desperate; **HER HEALTH WAS GONE!** She was **financially** desperate; **HER MONEY WAS GONE!** She was **socially** desperate; **SHE WAS AN OUTCAST!** She was **spiritually** desperate; **SHE COULD NOT ENTER THE TEMPLE!** She was **emotionally** desperate; **SHE WAS DISAPPOINTED TIME AND TIME AGAIN!** She is **A PICTURE OF DESPERATION!**

II. THIS WOMAN BY FAITH EARNESTLY SEEKS CHRIST

① She Heard About Jesus:

Mark records “*When she had heard of Jesus*” (**Mark 5:27**). This woman who felt **hopeless, unworthy, lonely, isolated, and alienated** “*heard of Jesus*” This woman with her enormous **problem** and desperate **need**, this woman who was so **burdened** down, and who was **hurting** “*heard of Jesus*” This woman **who was tired of her life, and wanted more than anything to be freed from her dreadful condition** “*heard of Jesus*” She heard about an **Emancipator**, a **Liberator**, and a heart and mind **Fixer!**

Whatever it was that she had heard, **hope** was aroused within her, and she **believed** (**Matthew 9:21; Mark 5:28**). She began to think, *“This Jesus can cure me, this Jesus can release me, and set me free. This Jesus can rescue and deliver me. This Jesus can put my life back together, can repair me, and make me whole”*

② **She Came:**

She believed what she had heard concerning **Jesus**, and as a result **she came!** **Mark** writes *“When she had heard of Jesus, came”* (**Mark 5:27**). Her coming involved many **obstacles** and great **difficulties**, but her faith and hope would overcome these! **Jesus** is on His way to the house of **Jairus**, the crowd is swarming Him, pressing up against Him, and **here comes this woman** who had been **plagued** and **tormented** for **twelve** years! This woman who had **suffered** in so many ways, and who was under the **curse** of the law, and who had tried everything imaginable to improve her situation, **she comes to Jesus!** Her **health** and **money** are gone, and **she comes with nothing!**

③ **She Came With Great Desire:**

She believed what she had heard concerning **Jesus**, and as a result **she came with a desire for her life to be put back together!** Her motivating desire is stated in **Matthew 9:21** *“If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole”* She so desperately wanted to be **“whole”** and by this time, she knew that **no one else could help her!** She knew that she had to get through that mob and mass of people without drawing attention to herself (*being ceremonially unclean*), and somehow come into contact with **Jesus!** As she somehow works her way through that crowd of people, she is saying to herself, *“if I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole”* **SHE IS STRIVING TO GET SO NEAR TO CHRIST THAT SHE WILL BE BLESSED!** She wanting so desperately to be **set free** from her dreadful disease, is saying to herself *“I have to get near enough to Jesus to touch Him”* Her heart is **attracted** to this **Jesus** that she had heard of, and **SHE EAGERLY AND WITH GREAT DETERMINATION STRIVES TO GET NEAR TO CHRIST!**

③ **She Touched Him In A Way That Was Different From Anyone Else In That Crowd:**

This woman who is **weak** and **frail**, she is struggling to reach Him, and she does not allow the **crowd** of people stop her, she did not allow her **problem** stop her, and she does not allow her **pain** or **affliction** to stop her, and eventually she is near enough to **stretch forth her hand in faith and touch His garment!** **Matthew** writes that she *“came behind Him, and touched the hem of His garment”* (**Matthew 9:20**). **Luke** refers to this **“hem”** as *“the border of His garment”* (**Luke 8:44**). She *“touched the hem of His garment”* **This was not just a passing touch that she gave**, but she **clutched** and **grasped** *“the hem of His garment”* and **everything came to a halt!** **Jesus** turned and said *“Who touched my clothes?”* (**Mark 5:30**). **Luke** records **Jesus** asking *“Who touched Me?”* (**Luke 8:45**). Out of fear, the people denied touching Him, *“when all denied”* (**Luke 8:45**), and then **Peter** and the **apostles** said *“Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched Me?”* (**Luke 8:45**). *“And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched Me”* (**Luke 8:46**). There were many in that crowd

that were touching Him, **but she touched Him in a way that no one else in that crowd had, SHE TOUCHED HIM WITH A HAND OF FAITH!** She did not merely **throng** or **press** upon Him, **SHE TOUCHED HIM, believing that He was the only one able to set her free and to change her life!**

Sadly, many who profess **Christ** are like this multitude who were following **Christ** without any real soul hunger, coming into casual contact with Him without receiving any real benefit! **BUT THIS WOMAN WAS FAR DIFFERENT THAN THESE CASUAL AND CURIOUS FOLLOWERS!**

④ **A Miracle Took Place:**

After she *“touched the hem of His garment”* there was immediate healing (**Mark 5:29; Luke 8:44**). **Jesus** did instantly what **twelve** years of various **doctors** could not do! **Jesus** did instantly what **twelve** years of **expense** could not do! The result; **twelve** years of **anguish, suffering, loneliness, and heartache** gone! **THIS HEALING WAS REAL!** **Mark** writes *“she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague”* (**Mark 5:29**)

⑤ **There Was Testimony:**

With the entire procession coming to a halt, and **Jesus** asking *“Who touched Me?”* and following the perplexity of the **apostles**, and **Jesus** declaring *“Somebody hath touched Me”* This woman (*now healed*), *“she came trembling, and falling down before Him (she is no longer behind Him, but now in front of Him), and she declared unto Him before all the people for what cause she had touched Him, and how she was healed immediately”* (**Luke 8:47**). **SHE GAVE TESTIMONY IN THE HEARING OF THAT MULTITUDE!**

⑥ **There Was Comfort:**

Following the woman’s testimony, **Jesus encouraged, comforted, and assured** her, and **commended** her faith (**Matthew 9:22; Mark 5:34; Luke 8:48**). Notice, that the first word of **Jesus** to this woman was *“Daughter”* (a word of **love and acceptance**), followed by words of **assurance!**

This woman was not just part of the crowd going along, but never receiving the benefit that there is in **Christ!** But she came because **she was tired of her life and wanted a change!** She came because **she realized that she had nothing left and no where else to go!** She came **longing and believing!** **THIS IS THE WAY TO BE MADE WHOLE!** Don’t be content to just follow as part of the crowd, but strive to be **blessed and changed!**
