

Touching Jesus

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

- A. Mark 5:22-34 - A hopeless situation
- B. Jesus is going to heal the daughter of a man by the name of Jairus. On the way there, He is surrounded by a great crowd of people. They throng Him and jostle against Him from every side. In the crowd that day there was a poor, weak, timid, dying woman who reached out and touched Jesus Christ and changed her life completely

I. Mark 5:24-26 - HER SUFFERING

- A. Her affliction (physical discomfort) - She experienced an ongoing and endless loss of blood which would have left her weak and anemic. She would have been pale and had no energy at all; the least of efforts would have worn her out.
- B. Her anguish (medical mistreatment) - She had tried all the remedies of all the physicians of her day and "suffered" under their care.
 - 1. An example of a "medical" technique in the Talmud for this disorder:
"Take of gum Alexandria, of alum, and of crocus hortensis, the weight of a zuzee each; let them be bruised together, and given in wine to the woman that hath an issue of blood. But if this fails, take of Persian onions nine logs, boil them in wine, and give it to her to drink: and say, Arise from thy flux. But should this fail, set her in a place where two ways meet, and let her hold a cup of wine in her hand; and let somebody come behind and affright her, and say, Arise from thy flux. But should this do no good, take a handful of cumin and a handful of crocus, and a handful of fenugreek; let these be boiled, and given her to drink, and say, Arise from thy flux. But should this also fail, dig seven trenches, and burn in them cuttings of vines not yet four years old; and let her take in her hand a cup of wine, and let her be led from this trench and set down over that, and let her be removed from that, and set down over another: and in each removal say unto her, Arise from thy flux. And if all these fail, let the woman carry about an ear of corn taken from the dung of a white donkey."
- C. Her angst (social embarrassment) - She was almost certainly not married, because according to the Law of Moses, simple contact with her would have conferred spiritual defilement.
 - 1. If she had been married, under the Law of Moses he could put her away for "unseemliness" (Deut. 24:1).
 - 2. She could not live or work with others because of the danger of defilement. This reduced her to a life of begging food from a distance.
 - 3. Her condition left her on the fringes of society. In the eyes of those around her, she was no better than a leper.
- D. Her agony (emotional torment) - She had been this way for 12 years, experiencing treatment as an outcast; she would be scarred emotionally from being treated as an object of grotesquerie; she is lonely, isolated, desperate
- E. Her anxiety (religious fears) - Under the Law, Lev. 15:19, 25-27, this poor woman was to be considered perpetually unclean and unredeemable.
 - 1. Imagine living most of your life convinced you could never be saved

- F. Her apprehension (financial troubles) - She “spent all she had” on doctors and their useless remedies with no cure in sight.
 - 1. All they had done was drain her finances. She was penniless and destitute, with no husband or children to look after her.
 - 2. She knows she is living under a death sentence. She will not get better. She knows that she will die from this disease.
- G. Her condition is like that of every person who has not been saved by the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - 1. Rom. 3:10, 23, 6:23; Gal. 3:22; Psalm 9:17
 - 2. It is a condition the sinner can’t make better or change on their own. He needs Jesus to heal him from his sins

II. Mark 5:27-28 - HER SCHEME

- A. Her reasons - Somewhere, this woman heard about Jesus and His power.
 - 1. It could have been by the re-telling of any of His miracles. He had just healed the possessed man on the other side of the lake - Mark 5:1-20.
 - 2. People on the fringes like her tell each other about such things.
 - 3. Christianity is about one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.
- B. Her resolve - She knew she had to get to Him; Jesus was her only hope. She believed that if she could just get to Him, she would be healed.
 - 1. She displayed determination in getting to Jesus by approaching Him in that crowd. As she moved through the people, she was causing ceremonial defilement for everyone she touched.
 - 2. She was taking a great risk, for if she had been recognized, she would have been subjected to public humiliation or possible mob action.
 - 3. She was in all likelihood weakened by her condition and risked passing out from exertion and heat and being trampled
 - 4. Jesus is our only hope - Acts 4:12; John 6:66-68, 14:6

III. Mark 5:29-34 - HER SALVATION

- A. It was powerful - In that instant, she received what none of the doctors or their expensive and powerless remedies could give her; she was healed and felt the change in her body. She knew she was a different person
- B. It was personal - As soon as this woman touches Him, Jesus knew what happened. For the record, He knew about it before it happened; He willed it.
 - 1. He asked the question in verse 30, “Who touched My clothes?”
 - 2. There was a multitude pressing in on Him, but none of them received a healing. Why is that? It was a touch driven by faith
 - 3. Jesus could have let her walk away well, but He wanted her to know that it was faith that made the difference, completed the circuit
 - 4. She came in fear of Him, possibly of rejection, maybe because she was afraid He would be unclean by the contact. But Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath; would He not also be Lord over the lesser laws of ritual cleanliness?

5. Jesus was on His way to heal the young daughter of an important ruler of the synagogue named Jairus (Mark 5:22-24). She was at the point of death. Jesus is delayed by a surging crowd of people. Yet, in spite of the seriousness of His mission, He makes time to stop for this woman.
 6. The business of the universe was put on hold as Jesus turned His full attention on this poor woman. To Him, the woman and her needs were more important than anything else He had to do at that moment.
 7. She was the sole focus and center of His world and attention. This woman, cast out and uncared for by everyone else, caught the attention of God because she exercised simple faith
 8. Jesus became a man so He could die on the cross - Phil. 2:5-8.
 - a. But He also became a man so that He could be touched with the feeling of our infirmities - Heb. 4:15-16.
 - b. He became flesh so He could touch and be touched by humankind. Until He was born into this world when the Son of God became the Son of Man, no one could touch Deity.
- C. It was profound - Note that He calls her "daughter". This is the only time Jesus ever calls a woman by this name.
1. It was a term to describe a changed relationship; she was now family
 2. She got more than physical healing that day. All her adult life, she was an outcast, dwelling in isolation and loneliness. One moment with Jesus and she has a family.
 3. In Christ, we are blessed beyond our ability to comprehend
 - a. We are children of God - 1John 3:1-2
 - b. We have a home waiting for us in Heaven - John 14:1-3
 - c. We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus - Rom. 8:17
 - d. We have a new life - 2Cor. 5:17
 - e. We are free from the dominion of sin - Rom. 6:14
 - f. We are no longer God's enemies - Rom. 8:7
 - g. We have been restored to Him - Eph. 2:12-19
 - h. We have been fully forgiven - Col. 2:13-14

Conclusion:

- A. One fleeting touch of the Christ, and this woman was given a new life
- B. For us what was lost in the Garden of Eden was regained on the Hill of Calvary