

Tri-State Community Church

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Gathering a family who loves and serves God through Jesus Christ and leads others in kind.

A Bible Study in Mark
Faith, Power, and Love: Part II

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Mark 5:24-34

Pastor Rick Anderson

andersonr06@comcast.net

Tri-State Community Church

www.tri-statecommunitychurch.org

Pastor Rick Anderson

andersonr06@comcast.net

304-387-3882

Mark 5:21-29

Faith, Power, and Love Part II

Upon Jesus' arrival on the western side of the Sea of Galilee, a man by the name of Jairus approached Jesus and begged Him to come and save his daughter who was on her death bed. Jesus agrees and they make their way toward Jairus' house.

Our text tells us that while they were on their way, "*a great crowd followed Him and thronged about Him*" (vs.24). Among the great crowd, "*there was a woman who had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse*"(vs. 25-26).

We are told that this woman had *suffered much*. Mark tells us that she suffered with her illness for twelve long years. She had *spent all that she had* on physicians and yet no one was able to help her—her condition was incurable. In spite of all she had done the woman *was no better but rather grew worse*.

There is a disease that is common to us all.

Like a cancer, this disease attacks us emotionally, physically, and has rendered us dead spiritually. Many have taken this disease to their doctors, psychiatrists, professors, counselors, self-help gurus, and etc. Many have spent all that they have *under many physicians and [are] no better but rather. . . worse*. This disease is rebellion against God commonly known as sin.

Humanity has *suffered much* under this disease. In fact it is the cause of all suffering. Let us pay close attention to the woman in our text.

She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If I touch even His garments, I will be made well" (27-28). In spite of the failure of all those physicians, this woman knew Jesus could heal her.

The woman knows that if she could touch Jesus' garment she would be well. She has faith in the extraordinary power of Jesus.

Notice that the woman *came up behind* Jesus. The nature of her disease deemed her unclean by Jewish law (Leviticus 15:19-20; 25-27). Her illness was of a very sensitive nature and one which she would have had difficulty discussing in the midst of the great crowd. Her strategy was to come up behind Jesus and anonymously touch His garment.

Perhaps what ails you is of a sensitive nature. You would not be comfortable announcing your infirmity that has tainted your soul in front of a crowd. Go to Jesus even if you must *come up behind Him*. Follow the woman of our text.

When she touched Jesus' garment "*immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease*" (vs. 29).

Imagine the instantaneous joy that overcame her heart as *she felt in her body that she was healed!* Millions and millions of Christians feel this joy as they draw close to Jesus. Some are delivered from drug abuse, others alcohol abuse. Some have a history of abusing family members; others possess the scars of such abuse. Like this woman, all were once unclean because of sin, but by grace through faith they have been made clean by Jesus.

Fellow sinner, we are so blessed. We do not have to worry about getting through massive crowds to get to Jesus. We do not have to worry about being of good reputation. We do not have to worry about being in high standing. We can come to Jesus right now and know that He will receive all who come to Him in faith. Jesus said, "*All that the Father gives to me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out*" (John 6:37).

One may ask, but how will I know if God the Father has given me to Jesus? That is a great question. I'll answer it with another. Have you come to Jesus in faith? If you have come to Jesus then the Father has given you to Him. Isn't that cause for great joy?

If you haven't come to Jesus, what is stopping you? Make a list of the things that are holding you back and evaluate them. Evaluate your doubts in light of the Bible's teaching.

Questions for Discussion and Meditation

What are some of your doubts? What doubts did you formerly have? How has God helped you work through your doubts? What doubts still remain? Are your doubts more convincing than the claims of Scripture—that *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever should believe in Him should never perish but have eternal life*? That God so loved the world that He came in the person of Jesus so He could become visible to us. That Jesus lived a perfect life to die for our sins. That God raised Jesus from the tomb. That He ascended to the right hand of God almighty. That Jesus now reigns with unlimited authority. That Jesus is offering salvation to all who will trust in Him; that you could receive His salvation by simple faith in Jesus.

Are your doubts more convincing to yourself than the above truth? Come to Him with doubts in hand and ask Him to give you the gift of faith. One preacher often offers counsel that goes something like this: "Go to Jesus and pray, 'Lord, I am more sinful than I could possibly imagine, but I am also more loved than I could possibly imagine. Please forgive me of my sins and help me in my unbelief. Give to me the gift of faith. Amen.'"

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