

**Faith That Saves**  
 Mark 5:21-34  
 November 2, 2025  
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<sup>21</sup> And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. <sup>22</sup> Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup> and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” <sup>24</sup> And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. <sup>25</sup> And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup> and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup> She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. <sup>28</sup> For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” <sup>29</sup> And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup> And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” <sup>31</sup> And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” <sup>32</sup> And he looked around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

There is something about faith that is not rational. Jesus had been with the crowds and his own disciples he handpicked. He had taught them. And yet these early disciples were struggling to exercise faith. They were on a boat. A huge storm terrified them. They wake up Jesus and tell him - do you not care about us? But Jesus tells them do you still not have faith.

In contrast to the disciples’ faith, here in this passage, we see the faith of a father and the faith of a poor woman.

This father makes a desperate request about his daughter. The man’s name is Jairus. Jairus was a well-respected man and a man of high social standing. Jairus was the leader of a synagogue. And his daughter is ready to die. So, he comes to Jesus, falls at his feet and begs Jesus to come to his place to heal his daughter. Jesus accepts his request and begins to travel to this man’s home. We will pick up Jairus’ story next week but as Jesus walks towards Jairus’ home, guess who is following Jesus? A huge crowd.

As the crowd follows Jesus, a poor woman is among the crowd. Her name is not even

mentioned here.

Her situation is very similar to the man who had lived among the tombs. That man was desperate for relief. He cried out night and day. People tried to control him and contain him. One chain would not do. So they tried to put more chains and fetters on him. But he broke all of them apart.

Like the man in the tombs, this woman was desperate. How desperate?  
Verse 25.

<sup>25</sup> And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup> and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.

If the man in the tombs was severely oppressed, this woman was going through an unbearable illness. What was her condition?

An issue of blood. Very likely, this is the medical condition called *endometriosis*.

Her illness took a toll on her body and her health. How long did she suffer? Not one year, three, five, seven years but for twelve long years.

Unlike the man in the tombs this woman had a reasonable mind.

She had gone to one doctor after another. Spent all money. However, every time she consulted and was treated by a doctor, her condition did not get better but grew worse. She had tried everything and nothing seemed to work.

So what did she do? Verse 27 and 28.

<sup>27</sup> She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. <sup>28</sup> For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.”

You see this woman *heard* about Jesus.

There are people who give a picture of Jesus as if He is only a Healer. Jesus can heal. But this lady very likely heard more about Jesus than just being a healer.

How do we know? Verse 28 gives us a clue - she said to herself “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” The word *well* is not the word heal but save. The same word used in salvation. She believed she could be made whole if she just touched the garment of Jesus. First, she *heard* about Jesus – the Savior who had been healing many but she very likely heard more about Jesus and she said to herself, “My life is going to be complete. My life is going to set right if I just get to Jesus”. Internally, in her mind, she concluded that Jesus was all that she needed.

This woman heard well and heard enough about Jesus. Some hear and never perceive. Remember, when Jesus taught his parables, he always began his parables with a phrase – “he who has ears let him (what?) hear!”.

You want faith? Hear well about Jesus Christ.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17).

And what did this woman do after she heard about Jesus?

She came and touched the garment of Jesus. Her actions are rather *outrageous* and *courageous* at the same time.

- *Outrageous* because a woman like this (in Jewish society), given her condition, wasn't even supposed to be in public much less touch the garment of someone. Jewish laws prohibited such women to be in public because they were considered ceremonially unclean. Leviticus chapter 15 tells that a woman like this would be considered unclean and everything she touches would be considered unclean as well. Why? Leviticus 15: 31 – “*Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness by defiling my tabernacle that is in their midst*”. The prohibition was for both men and women if they had a certain condition. So, this is rather shocking of her that she came and touched the garment of Jesus.
- Her actions are also *courageous* because this woman knew the odds were against her. She could not come out in public like Jairus. So she slips in quietly into the crowd and gets behind Jesus. That takes faith and courage. This woman was convinced that she could go to Jesus just as she was. Not after being ceremonially clean (as if that was possible for her). Imagine being considered unclean and ostracized for twelve years in conservative first century Jewish society.

So this woman heard about Jesus. And this woman takes initiative to come to Jesus and touches his garment.

What happens as a result? Verse 29.

<sup>29</sup> And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup> And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “*Who touched my garments?*”

The results were immediate. She was instantaneously healed.

When you have a headache, you take pain medicine and it might take you 30 minutes maybe an hour for the headache to go. But here you see 12 years of pain, 12 years of suffering, 12 years of desperation, all of that gone did instantly. How? By Faith!

Notice, this woman *felt* something change in her body. The word *felt* is really is the word *know*. Felt is more appropriate because she sensed a change in her body. Her pain is gone. Her weakness is gone. She felt wholeness in her body.

Now, there is something Mark wants his readers to see. Jesus perceived it. It's the same word *know* in both cases. This woman *knew* when she was healed. Jesus *knew* power had gone out of him.

This is rather extraordinary!

When Jesus touches your life, you will know it. You will experience it and feel it. The word for *power* is the word *dunamis*. We get the word dynamo or dynamite from this word. You could say, "dynamite" like power, came out of Jesus, and healed this woman and made her whole and complete.

What kind of a power is this? This is resurrection power!

- This is the power that God worked in Sarah, Abraham's wife, when she was 90 years old. God's power came into her and gave her reproductive capacity to give birth to Isaac. Genesis 17:16-17, 21:1-3
- This is the power that God overshadowed Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary was flustered when she was told she would conceive and give birth to a child. "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God*" Luke 1:35
- This is the also the power that raised Jesus from the dead on the third day after he was crucified by sinful men.
- This is the same kind of power of that God worked in you when He saved from the power of sin and granted you the forgiveness of your sin. Paul says in Ephesians 1:19 that "*the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead*"
- So many Christians are weak and powerless because they have not experienced this kind of resurrection power. A power that changes you and sanctifies you.
- This "unclean" woman touched Jesus but Jesus has not become unclean. His holiness makes unholiness leave you. Jesus gives power to be made whole.

So, this woman is healed. Jesus knows it and asks, "*who touched my garments?*"

You would have thought the disciples are walking in faith by now but they are slow in learning. They are clueless as to why our Lord asks this question.

Verses 31 through 34.

<sup>31</sup> And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” <sup>32</sup> And he looked around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> And he said to her, “*Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.*”

The disciples think Jesus does not know. And this woman who was just healed can't hide anymore. It's not as if Jesus does not know about this woman. Jesus wants her testimony. Jesus wants your testimony. Has he done a work in you? Then tell it to bless someone.

Notice, this woman's disposition – she feared, she trembled and fell down at the feet after she was healed.

Why is everyone so afraid of Jesus? The demons are afraid. The disciples are terrified. The people in the town are afraid. This woman trembles.

So this woman comes and gives full disclosure. And everyone heard her story. And Jesus has the last word.

How does Jesus address this woman? Daughter! This is significant.

This lady had been “unclean”. She had been estranged and had been living a life hiding in the shadows – in pain, in suffering and in illness. She is now healed. She is clean. She is whole. And she gives her testimony.

And for the sake of all those who were watching, Jesus makes a public statement. Your faith has made you well. “*Well*” is the word *saved*. Go in peace. Be healed of your illness. Jesus simply proclaims what she experienced already.

As I come to the end of this message, I realize there are some who ask “well I have been praying. Why don't I get healed?” You might have heard some say, “Well you don't have enough faith”. There might be some truth to that. Jesus himself would not perform healings in his hometown of Nazareth because they had contempt and disdain for him and did not believe in him. Mark 6:6 tells us that Jesus “*..marveled because of their unbelief*”.

Do you know why Jesus came and performed miracles?

Jesus had a very specific purpose.

Reason#1: To authenticate his identity as the Messiah. John 10:25 – “*The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me*”

Reason#2: To call people to repentance. Hear what Jesus said about two cities where he had performed miracles and yet did not repent – “*Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.*” Matthew 11:20-22.

Not having enough faith is not always the reason why someone is not healed. The man in the tombs was not even sane. Lazarus was dead. Jesus seeks repentance. Jesus seeks an internal change than just healing. Sometimes, it could be that God wants to do something greater through you by not healing. For example, your witness for the Gospel is greater when you suffer redemptively. Paul says in Romans 8:18 that “*the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us*”.

One day, there will be no more pain, no more sorrow. Only glory! And peace everlasting. May the Lord Jesus Christ give us a greater measure of faith!

----- Discipleship Questions-----

MESSAGE SUMMARY: Faith That Saves! Mark 5:21-34

HEAD: These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. What do you observe about the woman's faith and her actions that followed?

HEART: These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.

2. Do you believe faith comes by hearing the words of Christ? Why or why not? Go around and share.

3. What is God convicting you of and to believe in light of this message?

HANDS/HABITS: These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

4. For personal reflection: What has the Lord Jesus doing in your life? How do you worship Him today?