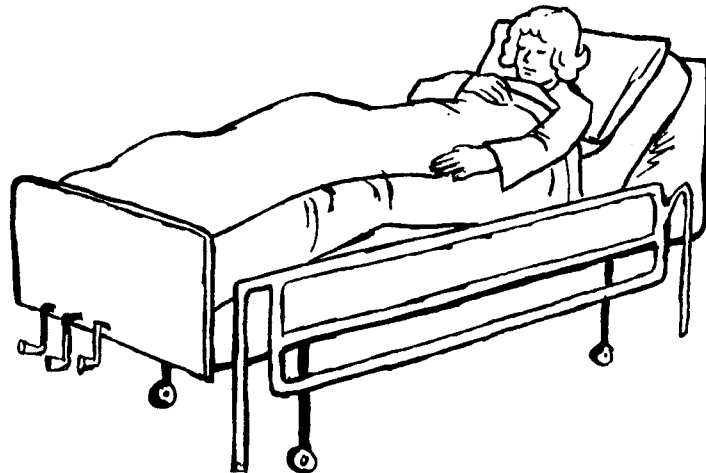


WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

(Jesus Still Heals Today)

Matthew 9:20-22



See the Woman:

- Diseased
- Determined
- Delivered

*"If I may but touch his garment,
I shall be whole." (Matthew 9:21)*

Bill Kirk

“WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS”

Text: Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-36; Luke 8:43-48

Subject: “And behold a woman which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind Him, and touched the hem of His garment...and the woman was made whole from that hour” (Matthew 9:20,22)

Introduction

1. In Matthew 8 & 9, ten miracles of Jesus are recorded:
 - A. In chapters 1-4, the person of Jesus is seen.
 - B. In chapters 5-7, the principles of Jesus are seen in the Sermon on the Mount.
 - C. In chapters 8 & 9, the power and authority of Jesus are revealed and recorded.
2. In Matthew 9:18, 19, Jesus was approached by a devout Jew named Jarius.
3. Jarius’ daughter had died and Jesus was asked to come quickly to pray for her:

“My little daughter lieth at the point of death; I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed, and she shall live” (Matthew 9:18)
4. Jesus then arose, went with Jarius and headed toward the ruler’s house.
5. As Jesus was walking to minister to a desperate situation, He was interrupted by a desperate woman.

(It Was “D” Day For This Woman)

I. She Was “D”iseased

“And behold a woman which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years” (Matthew 9:20)

Fact: This woman had an incurable hemorrhage.

Fact: She lived in pain and misery for twelve long years.

Fact: She spent twelve years not getting well.

Fact: Her ailment was chronic, continual and wearisome.

Fact: The woman was living a life of “Hopes deferred”.

◆ Twelve years is a long time to wait in prayer for the answer to arrive.

Question: What is it that encourages us not to give up on people or situations that have not changed for many years?

Question: What encourages us between the time we plant and the time we harvest?

II. She was “D”efiled

“She came behind Him” (Matthew 9:20)

“She came in the press behind Him” (Mark 5:27)

“She came behind Him” (Luke 8:44)

Question: Why did she come behind Jesus?

Answer: Because according to Levitical Law, she was ceremonially unclean:

“And if a woman have an issue of blood, she shall be put apart seven days; and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until the even” (Leviticus 15:19)

Fact: This woman was considered “Defiled”.

Fact: She was restricted in her social life.

Fact: She was restricted in her religious life.

Fact: She was considered and “Outcast”, “Not important”, “Less than others”, “Not good enough” and “Off to the side”.

Fact: The Levitical Law kept her at arms length, at a distance, in perpetual lower class living.

- ◆ The horror of the disease was that it rendered the sufferer unclean.
- ◆ The disease pushed the woman into isolation and humiliation.
- ◆ She had experienced the pit of loneliness, unacceptance and low self-esteem.
- ◆ Feelings from satan himself (called unworthiness) plagued her mind.

Question: What is the one truth that answers all accusation from the evil one?

III. She Was “D”iscouraged

“And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered”. (Mark 5:26)

Fact: Every doctor left her in disappointment.

Fact: Every doctor pushed her further into poverty.

Fact: Every expectation ended in discouragement.

- ◆ Jarius was a Jewish leader, (The woman had no prestige).
- ◆ Jarius was a church goer, (The woman was not allowed to worship).
- ◆ Jarius’ need was public and known, (The woman’s need was private and personal).

(But Be Encouraged)

◆ No one in the world may know what you need and where you are.

◆ But Jesus knows all the personal matters of your life.

Question: What is the root cause of all discouragement?

Question: Why is there such disappointment when our expectations are not met on our limited timetable?

Question: How is it possible to “Encourage yourself in the Lord”?

“David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke of stoning him, but David encouraged himself in the Lord”. (I Samuel 30:6)

IV. She Was “D”esperate

“But rather grew worse” (Mark 5:26)

Question: What do you do when you’ve struck out twelve years in a row?

Answer: You either...

#1...Quit, give up, go eat worms and die, (or)

#2...Let faith make you desperate enough to “Touch Jesus” as He passes by.

(Either/Or)

#1. Say “Never mind, nothing else has ever worked before” (or)

#2. Be desperate enough to believe His report, (and reach out to Him).

Question: What is perseverance?

Question: How is perseverance developed?

Question: How do you describe the very real feelings of being “Desperate”?

V. **She Was “D”etermined**

“And His disciples said unto Him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest Thou, who touched me?” (Mark 5:31)

Fact: She was so determined, that she let nothing stand in her way.

Fact: She didn’t care who else saw her pressing in to touch Jesus.

Fact: She ditched every excuse you could use:

(Excuses That Rob)

“I’m not important to Jesus”

“He’s too busy with other people” (Jarius’ daughter)

“Nothing else has worked, why try again”

“I don’t have enough faith anyway”

“This disease is chronic and terminal”

“That you be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Hebrews 6:12)

“And so, after he (Abraham) had patiently endured, he obtained the promise” (v. 15)

VI. **She Was “D”elivered**

“She declared unto Him before all the people for what cause she touched Him, and how she was healed immediately” (Luke 8:47)

Fact: Jewish men wore tassels of blue twisted cords on the corners of their outer garments.

Fact: These tassels served a reminder that they were to obey God.

Fact: The woman chose to touch this part of Jesus’ garment (the hem).

Fact: And when she did, she was healed – immediately and completely!

Question: Why was the woman delivered from her 12 year infirmity?

Answer: “Thy faith hath made thee whole” (Luke 8:48)

Question: What is faith?

Answer: Faith is believing that what you do not presently see, will become a reality.

“Somebody Has Touched Me”

VII. **She Was “D”istinguished**

“Daughter, be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace” (Luke 8:48)

Fact: The woman planned to slip away and go unnoticed.

Fact: But Jesus stopped and dealt with her publicly for all to see.

Question: Why did Jesus point her out?

Answer: To tell the multitude (and you and I):

1. That you can be a part of the crowd and yet never enter in and touch Jesus.
2. That Jesus responds to faith when it is directed towards Him.
3. That it is one thing to “Press Him” but quite another thing to “Touch Him”.
4. That being near is not enough, we must pray through and meet Jesus face to face (for ourselves)

(Why Distinguished?)

Because she took that step of faith that says:

“I don’t care who else is here, I know I can touch Jesus for myself”

Question: Why did Jesus call her “Daughter”?

Answer: To give her the assurance that she had been adopted into the family of God. (And)

◆ To let her know that God looks at people differently than people do.

Life Application

- #1. Every trial you face can bring you nearer and nearer to God in prayer.
- #2. Every test you experience can demonstrate God’s sustaining grace to an unbelieving world.
- #3. Every infirmity you endure can provoke you to live more and more with eternity in view.
- #4. Every tribulation can deepen your commitment to take up your cross and follow Jesus.
- #5. Every irritation can expose some improvements that need to be made.
- #6. Every discomfort can serve you in identification with Jesus.
- #7. Every unfulfilled expectation can lead you to put your expectations in God.

(And Like The Woman, Remember:)

- ◆ You have the privilege of coming into the presence of Jesus for yourself.
- ◆ You cannot be unworthy if God has made you worthy in His Son.
- ◆ You can arrest God’s attention by exercising faith in His incredible power and ability.

“Thy faith has made you whole” (Luke 6:48)

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor

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