

“Who touched my clothes?”

A. Opener: *Concentration Under Pressure; Jesus' calling in Luke 4:18-19*

B. Sermon in a Sentence: *Nothing distracts God from demonstrating His love & glory.*

C. Summary of Mk 5:21-34: After re-crossing the **Sea** of Galilee following his **stormy** deliverance mission to a man possessed by a **stormy crowd** of demons, Jesus is inundated by another **crowd** at the Capernaum shoreline. Out of this clamoring **sea** of people, two individuals approach Jesus for healing, one openly and the other trying to pickpocket a miracle.

Jairus, a synagogue manager whose **daughter** is gravely ill, pleads for her rescue from the **storm** of death. As Jesus walks with the desperate man through the pressing **crowd**, a woman who lives in a **sea** of isolation because of an endless bleeding disorder grasps at Jesus' garment in the hope of relief.

Jesus asks who touched his clothes, already knowing that God's power has healed this cowering woman's body. His question seeks to draw her out of her past shame and into the affirmation that her Father in heaven loves this treasured **daughter**.

D. TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE: Mk 5:21-34 (NIV)

²¹ When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹ “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ” ³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

E. Lessons from Mark 5:21-34

- **Jesus embodies faithful focus in the middle of chaos.**

Q: What stormy or crowded life circumstances distract your faith in Jesus?

- **Healing goes beyond the visible realm.**

Q: How have you desired the gifts of God rather than God Himself?

LIFE APPLICATION STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is the most crowded circumstance you've endured? How did you feel?
2. What activity requires the greatest level of concentration from you?
3. How is this situation with Jairus and the bleeding woman similar to the healing of the demoniac just before this event?
4. Imagine this woman's life and challenges (being ritually unclean and isolated, destitute following a life of seeking cures).
5. Jesus calls this woman "daughter" as he is on his way to heal another daughter. How has Jesus re-named or recalibrated your view of yourself?
6. How have you experienced God's perfect timing and method in healing?
7. End by praying for those you know who are in need of "second" levels of healing beyond physical issues.

WHY DOESN'T GOD HEAL EVERY SICKNESS, DISEASE, AND ILLNESS? by Pastor Chris Russell

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/blogs/chris-russell/why-doesn-t-god-heal-every-sickness-disease-and-illness.html>

I am a big believer in the doctrine of healing. I have experienced God's healing in my own life, and I have witnessed God healing myriads of people over the past couple decades I've been in ministry. I am greatly comforted by verses like the one in James that gives us a great hope in the power of prayer:

James 5:13-15 *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

I do believe that God heals, but I also believe that healing is not always the only path that He chooses for us. Sometimes His perfect plan for our lives is to allow us to suffer and experience disease, illness, and hardship. The reason for this is that He can often teach us things through suffering that we would never be able to learn through a book or seminar, or through comfort and prosperity.

Paul had a problem with his eyesight that God never healed. When Timothy was sick, Paul told him to drink wine (not go to a healing service). The Lazarus who was raised from the dead eventually died later. Paul says that he had a thorn in the flesh which he prayed for God to remove over and over again, but God never removed it. Job suffered because God had a whole bigger purpose for him than mere comfort on this planet. And Job's suffering was not the result of a lack of faith.

Some of the greatest blessings in this world come from God's power in the midst of trials. God changes us, molds us, strengthens us, and builds us through hardship. And there is nothing like the experience of being comforted by God alone in that dark hour.

Over the past twenty-five years that I have been in ministry, I have seen people hurt greatly by the false teaching that God always wants to heal every malady. This is because that belief can cause a massive amount of guilt and disillusionment for the afflicted in those times when God actually chooses not to heal. The implication is that the suffering Christian just didn't quite believe enough or is hiding some sort of sin. I have seen Christians destroyed in their faith over this erroneous teaching.

We must realize that sometimes it's just not God's plan to heal or to fix a problem quickly for us. And that's ok. He still loves us. He still has a plan. And He still has a profound purpose for that pain that can end up blessing us beyond anything we could ever imagine.

Often God chooses to heal! But sometimes He teaches us more and draws us closer when we walk the dark mile of suffering. But to experience such blessing, it is important that we run to God and not away from Him in the midst of the storm.

For an epic example of how God can bless even in the midst of a tragedy, check out this post:
<https://sensiblefaith.com/2013/11/04/experiencing-gods-grace-even-at-the-death-of-a-child/>