

Mark 5: 24-34 (ESV) – The Woman with the Flow of Blood

Main point: God cares about healing you and your story.

Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.

Background: Jesus has been healing people right and left, so there are a lot of people following him at this point. (Why do you think that is?) At the time this story starts, a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue (a bigwig VIP), falls at Jesus' feet and begs him to come to his house to heal his little daughter, who is at the point of death. So Jesus is heading to Jairus' house. That's where this story picks up.

Focus of the study:

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" ³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³² And he looked around to see who had done it. ³³ 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. ³⁴ And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Questions:

1. *There's a woman who has had a bleeding disorder; for how long? What is her story?*
 - a. 12 years
 - b. has suffered much under many physicians – *I wonder what that means?*
 - i. has seen a lot of doctors! kept trying ...
 - c. had spent all her money – *why? how desperate was she?*
 - d. the outcome: no better but actually worse. *How would you feel if you had gone to a bunch of doctors for 12 years, spent all you had, and felt worse, not better?*
2. *v. 27: Why does she come to Jesus?*
 - a. she has heard reports – *what kind of reports? What has he been doing?*
3. *v. 28: What is her plan? Is she going to talk to Jesus, ask him for healing?*
 - a. no; merely wants to touch his garments.
4. *Why might she not want to be seen?*
 - a. a woman, not "important," especially compared with Jairus, where Jesus is heading at that very moment

- b. ritually “unclean” from bleeding; cast off
- 5. *Why do you think the woman thinks this will work?*
 - a. based on stories she has heard about Jesus, she has tremendous *faith*
- 6. *v. 29: What happens? How quickly?*
 - a. immediately, her bleeding disorder stops and she is healed!
- 7. Then something really interesting happens with Jesus (read v. 30 again)
 - a. “Who touched my garment?” What is the disciples’ response to this? “Jesus, there are a ton of people around you ... How in the world do you know someone touched you???” *What makes their confusion understandable?*
- 8. *Jesus looks around to see who it was, and what does the woman do?*
 - a. came in fear and trembling – *why is she afraid?*
 - i. status of women in this society: seen, not heard
 - ii. she has been “ritually unclean” for years, hidden, shamed: now suddenly in the spotlight
 - b. *fell down before him – I wonder why she did this?*
 - c. told him the *whole truth* – *how long would it take the woman to tell the whole truth of her 12-year story? Does Jesus interrupt her? Does Jesus tell her that he’s actually on his way to a very important man’s house?*
 - i. No ... he waits and hears her out completely
 - ii. And let’s go back to the beginning: who is waiting all this time? Jairus!
- 9. *v. 34: What is Jesus’ response?*
 - a. daughter
 - b. “your faith has made you well;
 - c. go in peace
 - d. and be healed of your disease.”
- 10. Let’s look at all four of those parts of his response:
 - a. *What does he communicate by calling her “daughter”?*
 - i. love, acceptance, intimacy, “don’t be afraid”
 - b. *What is he telling her when he says “your faith has made you well”*
 - i. approving her faith, that she came to the right place!
 - c. *I wonder why he says “go in peace” and “be healed of your disease”?*
 - i. she has been tormented, afraid, weakened by her disease
 - ii. the disease had cut her off from society; no peace, no security
- 11. *I wonder what it would mean to “be healed” in this way?*
 - a. physically; emotionally; socially; spiritually
- 12. *What things do we need to ask God to heal today and every day?*
 - a. physical illness
 - b. emotions: regrets, sadness, long stories of pain ...
 - i. Does God want to hear your whole story, your whole truth? Tell him! Don’t be afraid – come to him and tell him what you need.
- 13. Ask for prayer requests for today.
- 14. Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
- 15. End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace