

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 Jesus 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), begs Jesus to come to his house to heal Jairus' 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 Jesus [on his way to Jairus' house] 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 Jesus' 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 the woman 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 Jesus' disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³² And Jesus 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 Jesus and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Questions:

1. *We hear in this story about a woman who has had a bleeding disorder; for how long? What is her story? What has been happening to her*
 - a. 12 years ... *how long is that to be sick? A loooong time*
 - b. She has "suffered much under many physicians" – *I wonder what that means?*
 - i. has seen a lot of doctors! kept trying ...
 - c. She had spent all her money – *why? how desperate was she?*
 - d. *Her physical outcome after all this time? No better but actually worse!*
 - i. *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 this woman come to Jesus?*
 - a. She has heard reports – *what kind of reports? What has Jesus been doing?*
3. *v. 28: What is the woman's plan? Is her plan 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. She's a woman, not "important," especially compared with Jairus, the VIP who asked Jesus to heal his daughter, and where Jesus is heading at that very moment
 - b. Because she is bleeding, according to Jewish law she is ritually "unclean"; cast off
5. *Why do you think the woman thinks that touching Jesus' garment will heal her?*
 - a. Based on stories she has heard about Jesus, she has tremendous faith
6. *Read v. 29 again: 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). What does Jesus do and say?*
 - a. He “perceives” that something has happened, that “power” has gone from him
 - b. He immediately turns around, looks around, and asks, “Who touched my garment?”
8. *What is the disciples’ response to Jesus’ question?*
 - a. “Jesus, there are a ton of people around you ... How in the world do you know someone touched you???” *What makes their confusion understandable?*
9. *Jesus looks around to see who it was, and what does the woman do?*
 - a. She comes to Jesus in fear and trembling – *I wonder why she is 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. She falls down before Jesus – *I wonder why she does this?*
 - i. Humility, fear, maybe thinking she’ll be punished
 - c. She “tells him the whole truth” – *how long do you think it would take the woman to tell the whole truth of her 12-year story?*
 - d. *Does Jesus interrupt her? Does Jesus tell her that he’s actually on his way to a very important man’s house?*
 - i. No ... Jesus waits and hears her out completely
 - ii. And let’s go back to the beginning of this story: who is waiting all this time? Jairus!
10. 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.”
11. Let’s look at all four of those parts of Jesus’ response:
 - a. *What does Jesus’ communicate by calling her “daughter”?*
 - i. love, acceptance, intimacy, “don’t be afraid”
 - b. *What is Jesus telling the woman when he says “your faith has made you well”*
 - i. approving her faith, that she came to the right place!
 - c. *I wonder why Jesus says “go in peace” and “be healed of your disease”?*
 - i. She has been tormented, afraid, weakened by her disease for so long
 - ii. The disease had cut her off from society; no peace, no security
 - iii. This is her new future from Jesus: peaceful, healed
12. *I wonder what it would mean to “be healed” in this way?*
 - a. physically; emotionally; socially; spiritually
13. *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.

- Ask for any prayer requests for today.
- Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
- End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace

Mark 5:24-34

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