

Mark 5:24-34

- 24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.
- 25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,
- 26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,
- 27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.
- 28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.
- 29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.
- 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?
- 31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?
- 32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.
- 33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.
- 34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Jesus gave Himself gladly and freely for others. In our text, we find Him near the sea. The crowds were following Him. Then a man named Jairus came and fell at His feet, crying out, "My daughter is sick. I think she's going to die! Please come!"

Jesus was touched by his request and agreed to help him. So they started out for Jairus' house with the crowd following them. But Jairus was not the only one in trouble. There was a woman in the crowd who had been sick for twelve years. She had gone from one doctor to another, but none of them had been able to help her.

She felt sure that Jesus could help her, but she was too timid to go right up to Him and ask for help. So she slipped up behind Him and touched the hem of His garment. Jesus felt the power go out of Him and He said, "Who touched my clothes?" Of course, He knew who it was. He looked straight at the woman and she came and fell at His feet. She poured out her heart to Him, and He said, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole. Go in peace." Then the woman went away rejoicing.

Jesus had done more for her than all of the doctors. This is the story of a great faith and a great Savior. Let's see what the

Holy Spirit has to teach us in this story.

First of all, we learn that this woman was sick.

For twelve long years she had suffered. At the beginning of each year she must have said, "Maybe this year I will get better." On the first of each month, maybe she said, "I hope this will be a good month for me." But healing never came.

I believe that at least part of the reason why God put this story in His Bible, is that it is such a good picture of the lost sinner; a picture of one who needs the touch of God.

A man in India once took a cup of water out of their sacred Ganges River and showed it to some of the local people under a microscope. When they saw all the bacteria swimming around in the water, they broke the microscope. They did not want to look facts in the face. We sinners are like that. The Bible tells us that we are sinners. Our consciences tell us the same thing. But we don't want to listen. We are sick in our sin.

First, we learned that this woman was sick. Now, second, we learn that she had tried many physicians.

I imagine each of the doctors had some new and different treatment to try on her. Mark writes that she had suffered many things from these physicians. In telling this same story, Luke, a doctor himself, wrote that she had spent all of her money paying doctor bills. But all the doctors were helpless: none of them were able to help her.

I thank God for doctors. Often they can do wonderful things to help us recover from our illnesses. But, sometimes nothing they can do will help. Now, just as the doctors were helpless in the face of this woman's disease, so the worldly spiritual physicians are helpless in the face of the disease called sin. Let's look at some of these so-called spiritual physicians.

First, there is DOCTOR ATHIEST. He examines the patient and says, "Don't worry. There is no God. Don't worry about it."

Then he goes on his way and the poor sinner must say, "He didn't help me. He didn't heal my disease. My heart is still aching, my sin still condemns me."

A certain man ran down to the dock and leaped into the water. Someone threw him a rope but he pushed it aside. The man with the rope said, "That man must be crazy!" And he WAS crazy. He had just escaped from an insane asylum. So he drowned. The athiest is like that. He is drowning in sin. You throw him the rope of

the Gospel and he pushes it aside. Doctor Athiest cannot help you. He will simply leave you floundering in your sin.

Second, there is DOCTOR AGNOSTIC. The athiest says, "There is no God." The agnostic says, "I don't know whether there is a God or not." Doctor Agnostic examines the patient and says, "No man knows if there is a God or whether there is life after death or whether man has a soul." When he goes away, the poor sinner must still say, "He did not help me. My sin is still a burden upon me."

Third, there is DOCTOR NO HELL. This doctor says, "Don't worry, there is no such place as Hell. There is no punishment for the sinner. God is merciful and He will not punish you." When this doctor goes away, the poor sinner cries out, "He did not help me. My sin is convicting me and I am in Hell now!"

The Bible says that Hell is real. The Bible says that Hell is waiting for all those who refuse my Lord Jesus. Flee to Christ now! He will shelter you from the wrath to come!

Fourth, there is DOCTOR GOOD ENOUGH. He says to the sinner, "Don't worry about your sins. You are a good person. You are honest. You don't harm anyone. You pay your debts. You are good enough." When he goes away, the poor sinner says, "He didn't help me. I know that I am NOT good. I know that I have sinned against God."

You can always tell when someone is far away from God. They talk about how good they are. The nearer a person is to God, the more easily they see their own sin. When Isaiah saw God he cried out, "Woe is me. I am a man of unclean lips." When Peter saw the Lord he cried out, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." No man is ever good enough to get into Heaven on his own merits.

Ephesians 2:8 & 9 say, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Fifth, there is DOCTOR DO BETTER. He says to the sinner, "I know that you are bad, but just do better in the future and everything will be all right." When he goes his way, the poor sinner says, "I will try to do better, but that will not blot out my guilty past. I am a sinner, what must I do?"

Here is a man who is a trusted employee of a large company. One

day he steals \$100,000 from the company. When he is caught, will the company say, "You must do better in the future." Will they accept him back if he replies, "All right, I'll just steal \$50,000 next time?" NO! They will call the police and he will be punished for his crime! Doing better won't clear up your past sin.

The GREAT PHYSICIAN is the only One who can help us. Only Jesus can forgive our sin and make us whole. All the other doctors are quacks. Jesus alone has the remedy for sin. HE examines you and says, "You have sinned and you are lost. But I love you and I will save you. That's why I went to the cross. So repent of your sin and put your trust in Me."

In John 6:37, Jesus said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

And, Isaiah 1:18 reads, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Then the sinner shouts, "That's the Doctor for me! I will take the remedy! I know that He will save me and give me peace."

This is what the woman did. Jesus not only healed her, but He gave her the peace that only He can give.

First, we learned that this woman was sick. Then, second, we learned that she had tried many physicians. Now, third, we learn that this woman had faith.

First, we note that it was a timid faith. She did not speak out, she just slipped up and touched the hem of His garment.

Second, it was a great faith. She said, "If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole." Think of it! This woman had been going to doctors for twelve years and none of them had helped her. But when she saw Jesus, she believed that a simple touch would make her whole. Although we are saved by God's grace, there IS one part of the job we have to do. We have to reach out and accept His free gift. Despite her great faith, the woman would never have been healed if she had stayed back in the crowd and never reached out to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. Jesus has the remedy for your sin! Why not step up and take it?

Third, it was a faith based upon little knowledge. This woman did not know as much about Jesus as we do. She just knew two things. She knew that she was sick and that Christ could heal her. This is all you need to know. You are a sinner and Christ can save

you. You don't have to know about all the doctrines of the faith. You don't have to know a large number of scripture verses. You don't have to know all about prophecy. You just need to know two things. You need to know that you are lost. And you need to know that Christ can save you.

First, we learned that this woman was sick. Second, we learned that she had tried many physicians. Third, we learned that this woman had faith. And, finally, fourth, we learn that this woman was made whole.

When she touched the hem of His garment, the power flowed out from Him and she was healed. So when we touch Him by faith, His saving power flows down to us. When you are sick you go to a reputable physician and you say, "Doctor, my case is in your hands." Jesus has the reputation for saving souls. Come and put your case in His hands.

When you place your case in Jesus' hands, you have found the greatest Physician in the world.

Yes! He is exactly that. He is what the world needs! He is what I need! He is what you need! Come and touch Him and let His blessings flow into your soul today!

In John 3:16 Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Hallelujah! Amen!

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