

Weaving the Word

An Issue of Blood

July 9, 2017



Welcome to where we're learning how to actually act on faith.

Who here likes the snow? Who here is saved? Who likes to ski? Who could come up here and confirm your claim of salvation with the principle Scriptures? Who's tried snowboarding?



This is **Mount Hermon**. At its base was the city of **Caesarea Philippi**. The subterranean water that surfaces here, feeds the Jordan River. See that cave? There was a fertility temple in front of it. And, a sign here reads: "[Animal] sacrifices were cast into a natural abyss reaching the underground waters at the back of the cave. **If ... signs of blood appeared in the nearby springs the sacrifice had been rejected.**"



Public displays of devotion to the fertility god were so explicit and vile that **Jews were forbidden from even entering the city.**



Meanwhile, back home on the shores of Capernaum, 27 miles from the slopes of Mount Hermon (same as us to Mount Baker), Jesus' sinner-dinner is abruptly ended by Jairus, a synagogue ruler. His daughter is dead. Every religious superior is in town. And, Jesus is his only hope.



So, Jairus stands up to *them* and bows down to *Him*.

Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. – Matthew 9:19 NIV



But, there's a showdown about to go down; Jairus' fellow rulers are about to try to shut down his new faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. And then, **the Father himself intervenes ... to Jesus' surprise.**



A large crowd followed and pressed around him. the crowds almost crushed him. And Just then a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years but no one could heal her. 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. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched the edge of his cloak, because She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." and immediately her bleeding stopped. and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. – Matthew 9:20-21; Mark 5:24-29; Luke 8:42-44 NIV





Where'd *that gal* come from?

Well, according to Eusebius, the “father of church history,” writing about 300^{AD}: Caesarea Philippi. In fact, Eusebius says he saw a bronze statue there she had made of Jesus and herself-on-bended-knee.



So, what's a Jewish “daughter” (Lk 8:48) doing in a place like that?! Escaping rejection, perhaps? **For 12 years she's been unclean, alienated, and ostracized by her people.** They can't touch her or anything she has contaminated with her touch. So, she's living in the one place where no Jew will trouble her about her own impurity or fertility issues.

Which, ironically, happens to be where a flow of blood represents utter rejection. **Ever try to run from rejection?** I have. Many times. Can't be done. **It just shows up in another form.** Unless, that is, you run *to* Jesus. **We can't outrun it; but, He can overcome it.**

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. “Who touched me?” Jesus asked. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.” “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’” But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.” – Mark 5:30-32; Luke 8:45-47a NIV

Did Jesus have less power after that? No. He had more. Why?

First, **Jesus didn't have power; He is power.** And, as we saw last time, **it's the power of love;** and, **love is the one power that increases the more you give it to others.**

Want more love *in* your life? *Give* more love *from* your heart.



When something dirty touches something clean, *like cloth*, it makes it unclean. But, **when something unclean touches something that makes clean, like bleach**, the unclean becomes clean while the bleach remains bleach.



For Jairus to now allow Jesus to enter his home, and touch his own daughter, **he must accept Jesus as having the power to make clean and holy without becoming unclean himself.**

In this way, this woman both tests *and* boosts Jairus' faith. More than Jairus, she must act in the face of life-threatening rejection from every religious ruler.

Also, by surprising Jesus, God is confirming to Jairus that God himself is behind all this.

Then Jesus turned and saw her. the woman, knowing what had happened to her, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. **Why she had touched him** and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, “Take heart, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.” and be freed from your suffering.” And the woman was healed from that moment. – Matthew 9:22; Mark 5:33-34; Luke 8:47b-48 NIV

Everyone was clamoring to touch Jesus for healing. **So why does her faith heal her and their faith doesn't?** I'm sure they believed as much as she did that they'd be healed. And, I'm sure they persisted as much as she did to touch Him.

What is it that empowers her faith and not theirs?

It's all about “**WHY she had touched him**”. She had told herself that **if she could just touch the edge of His cloak she'd be healed**. Why? **Based on what?** Imagination and good wishes? No.



Scripture.

An orthodox Jewish man's garment (tallit), with its commanded tassels, (Num 15:38-40) resembles, and is referred to in Scripture, as his “wings”.

So, when Ruth (3:9) puts her trust in her kinsman-redeemer, her words can be translated these three different ways ...

In the **CEV**: “Spread the **edge of your cover** over me.”

In the **NIV**: “Spread the **corner of your garment** over me ...”

In the **NKJ**: “Take your maidservant under **your wing** ...”

Now, in King David's last words, he said, foreseeing Jesus:

The Rock of Israel said to me: ‘When one rules over men in **righteousness**, when he rules in the **fear** of God, **he is like the light of morning at sunrise** ...’ – 2 Samuel 23:3b-4a NIV

And, in the last chapter before the New Testament, the Lord says through Malachi:

To you who **fear** My name the **Sun of Righteousness** shall **arise** with **healing in His wings** [i.e. **His garment's edge**] ... – Malachi 4:2a NKJ

And in our story today, it says **Jesus arose** and went with Jairus, and a woman, who later **trembled with fear** before Him, knew she only needed to touch **His garment's edge** to be **healed**.

And, without meaning to provide it, she gives Jairus the proof God knew he'd need, that Jesus is the One prophesied by Malachi!

So, how is *her* faith and desire different from the others? **They were acting on desire based on their desire.** And, **she was acting on hope based on God's promise.**

Faith isn't about its own strength; but, its object.

Faith in faith is faith in self. But, **faith in God's Word is faith in God.** You see, **we're not acting in faith if we're not trusting God's Word;** and, **it's not possible to trust what we don't know.**

Everyone was trusting in, and acting on something: superstition, magic, spirituality, mysticism, positive energy, or *whatever*. But, **only one that day was putting her trust in the Lord.**

Every day, every action we take is based on trust in something. And, if it's not God's Word, we're just clamoring. But, **the more we seek His face, in His Word, the more natural it becomes to align ourselves accordingly, and to trust and to act on it.**

So, why do you suppose this woman stayed in Caesarea Philippi *after* she was healed? I suppose she'd gotten to know the type of people whose issues Jesus came to heal and cleanse *by His blood*. She had a statue to make, and a message to proclaim. And, **it seems her testimony reached far beyond Jairus;** because, a few months after this, we read *for the first time, that ...*

Wherever he went — into villages, towns or countryside — they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him **to let them touch even the edge of his cloak,** **[which, of course, He allowed]** and all who touched him were healed. — Mark 6:56 NIV

And, about a year later ...

When Jesus came to the **[explicitly off-limits]** region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his **[young, stunned]** disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **[Hmm. Based on what, I wonder?]** "But what about you?" he asked. **"Who do you say I am?"** **[And, why? And, based on what?]** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven." — Matthew 16:13-17 NIV

Who do you say that He is? Can you confirm your claims with His promises?

We won't act on what we can't trust. And, **we can't trust what we don't know.**

This woman reached out to the One who fulfills this promise:

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow ... — Isaiah 1:18b NIV

Do you like the snow?

[David said] It is as if **the dew of [Mount] Hermon [i.e. snow]** were **falling on Mount Zion [covering every crimson stain]**. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. — Psalm 133:3 NIV

If we're not at His feet we'll be on the slopes.