

MIRACLES OF JESUS

A HEAVENLY DELAY FROM A WOMAN'S TOUCH - MARK 5:25-34

A. Context

1. Jesus healed a demon possessed man on the eastern shore (1-20).
3. He returned to the northwestern side of the Sea of Galilee where many people followed Jesus even to the point of almost crushing Him (21-24).
5. A synagogue ruler requested and obtained Jesus' help in healing his daughter.
6. There would be a heavenly delay caused by a desperate woman in Mark 5:25-34,

B. A sick woman joined the crowd looking for help from Jesus (25-29)

1. She had been sick for 12 years (25-26), *And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.*
 - a. She had sought cures from many physicians.
 - 1) Jewish writings gave numerous ways a woman could be cured of her diseases. Some included carrying the ashes of an ostrich egg in a linen rag in summer and a cotton rag in winter. Another cure was carrying a barley corn that had been found in the dung of a white female donkey.
 - 2) She spent all the money she had but she only got worse.
 - b. Her illness made her ceremonially unclean.
 - 1) She couldn't go to the synagogue and worship with others.
 - 2) If she was married, she couldn't have physical contact with her husband.
 - 3) Like a leper, she was unclean for 12 years.
2. She sought Jesus because she heard that others had been healed by Him (27-29)
 - a. She decided to touch His garment in hope that she would be healed (27-28), *She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well."*
 - 1) She had heard encouraging reports about Jesus.
 - a) Could He be the one Who would finally heal me?
 - b) Mark 3:10, *for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him.*
 - c) Her illness had made her self-conscious, William Barclay, *...she had this problem—her trouble was an embarrassing thing; to go in the crowd and to state it openly was something she could not face, and so she decided to try to touch Jesus in secret.*
 - 2) Her faith was weak but she moved toward Jesus.
 - a) Every devout Jew wore an outer robe with four tassels on it, one at each corner. It was in obedience to the command in Numbers 15:38-40, and were to signify the wearer as a member of the chosen people of God.
 - b) She touched one of His tassels in faith.
 - c) R. Kent Hughes, *She had no idea that Jesus would know anything about what she did. Her faith was uninformed, presumptuous, and superstitious, but it was real, and Christ honored her imperfect faith.*
 - b. She was immediately healed (29), *And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.*
 - 1) The flow of blood dried up immediately.
 - 2) She felt healing in her body, William Taylor, *And the moment she did touch His garment's hem, a strange, electric thrill of new-given life tingled through her frame. She felt that she was cured.*
 - 3) After 12 years of separation from family, friends and loved ones, she was healed.

- C. Jesus commanded the healed woman to identify herself (30-33)
1. He knew power had gone out from Him and wanted the person identified (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?"*
 - a. Power did not leave Jesus without His knowledge and will.
 - 1) Jesus honored her faith by extending His healing power to her.
 - 2) The woman was probably terrified that she was caught. Had she defiled Jesus by her touch? Was He going to embarrass her in front of the crowd?
 - b. Jesus had more for the woman than she could have ever imagined.
 - 1) He wanted the woman to know that her healing was based on faith in Him and not some power emanating from His clothing.
 - 2) He wanted to establish a relationship with the healed woman that would go far beyond physical healing.
 2. His disciples could not understand how He could know of one touch among such a throng of people (31), *And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'"*
 - a. Many people were touching Jesus.
 - 1) The disciples were trying to use common-sense to understand what was miraculous.
 - 2) They saw a throng of people but he felt the touch of one's heart.
 - b. The woman touched Jesus by faith.
 - 1) Jesus could feel the touch because it came from the woman and through the cross.
 - 2) There was a cost to that healing and Jesus definitely felt it just as when He felt our reach of faith.
 3. The woman identified herself (32-33), *And he looked around to see who had done it. 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.*
 - a. The woman came and fell at Jesus' feet.
 - 1) She humbled herself by falling at His feet.
 - 2) Her fear was that of reverence.
 - 3) This Man had done what no other person had been able to do.
 - b. She told Jesus why she had touched Him.
 - 1) She understood Jesus' question because she knew what had happened when she touched His garment.
 - 2) She told Him that she had believed He could heal her.
- D. Jesus completed the healed woman's faith (34), *And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."*
1. Jesus explained to the woman what had happened to her.
 - a. It was not the garment that healed her but her faith in Him, John Grassmick, *Faith, confident trust, derives its value not from the one who expresses it, but from the object in which it rests.*
 - b. It was not her superstition, not her touching the garment, not some kind of magic, but it was her faith in Jesus Christ.
 - c. This is the only place in the Gospels where Jesus called someone *daughter*. The woman's faith brought her into the spiritual family of God, she gained not only physical but spiritual healing.
 2. Her healing was confirmed and the miracle was enlarged.
 - a. She was healed physically - she no longer had the unending flow of blood.
 - b. She was healed socially - she no longer was ceremonially unclean.
 - c. She was healed spiritually - she could go in peace, Tom Constable, *Shalom, go in peace...means not just freedom from inward anxiety, but that wholeness or completeness of life that comes from being brought into a right relationship with God.*

CONCLUSION

- A. The woman received much more than she had hoped for. So can we.
- B. Jesus takes the time to meet our deepest needs.
- C. Life-changing faith is not based on the strength of our faith but on the strength of the object of our faith, Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

R. Kent Hughes, *This poor woman represents humanity—all of us. We are ill. We have spent our resources trying remedies which do not work. Christ comes to us from the Cross. We need to touch him by faith. Do not fear that he will not respond. Do not fear that you are too ignorant. Do not fear that you are too selfish. Fear only one thing—that you will let him pass without reaching out in faith to him...In a sea of a million hands, Christ will see the one that is raised in faith, though it be infantile and imperfect. Are you sensing within you the stirring of faith? By God's grace, exercise it. It will not go unnoticed by the Master.*