

Beyond The Waves

Understanding Biblical Faith

Week 4: The Touch of Faith

Text: Mark 5:21-34

Have you experienced discouragement and failure?

Today, as we seek to understand biblical faith, we are going to meet a woman who has been disappointed, let down, who has exhausted her resources, and who has been marginalized in her community.

What does her story tell us about faith?

Mark 5:21–34 (NIV)

“When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, ‘My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.’ So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 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 his cloak, because she thought, ‘If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.’ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.”

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” “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. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Mark intentionally interrupts the story of Jairus with the story of this unnamed woman.

This literary technique is often called _____, or a

_____.

Exploring the Passage

For laws concerning uncleanness, see [Leviticus 15](#)

What did this mean for the woman?

Mark tells us she had suffered _____ under many _____ and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better, she grew worse.

Every accidental touch could bring public exposure and further shame.

Her presence in the crowd is an act of _____.

“If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” (5:28)

Faith is a _____ with Jesus.

Jesus _____ the crowd for a woman the crowd likely wanted to ignore.

What does Jesus do for her?

What would calling her **“Daughter,”** and telling her to **“Go in peace,”** have meant to her?

Crossing The Context

What is the 'garment' you are reaching for today?

Scripture Acknowledgement:

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