

Who Touched Me?

Luke 8: 40-48

We have read a very familiar passage of Scripture; one that reveals great truth and offers hope to all who read it. The events that we have read this morning came during a very busy season in the ministry of our Lord. He had entered a ship on the Sea of Galilee with the disciples and as He slept a storm arose. The disciples came to Him afraid and Jesus rose and rebuked the storm and the winds and sea obeyed. When they arrived at the shore, Jesus encountered the maniac among the tombs of Gadara. The man was set free from demon possession, but the crowds desired Jesus to leave the country. He has now returned to Galilee and was welcomed by many who were waiting for Him.

This brings us to the passage that we've read. This woman's story is actually in the midst of another story. Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, had a daughter twelve years of age who was dying at home. He had come seeking Jesus to touch her. As they made their way, through the crowds, this woman came and touched the Lord's garment.

I would like to look at the circumstances of this woman's life and the hope that we find through it. Her life was in shambles, but a meeting with the Master changed all of that. I want to consider the question that our Lord posed: [Who Touched Me?](#)

I. The Tragedy Described (43) – [And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any](#), This one statement reveals much concerning her.

A. She was Diseased – She was troubled with [an issue of blood twelve years](#). We likely can't begin to imagine the grief and despair that she felt. Most would grow impatient and give up in twelve days. Each day was more of the same. Each day just brought more despair and difficulty.

- This would've been especially difficult in Jesus' day. According to the law of God she was considered ceremonially unclean. This affected her life both socially and spiritually. She was not allowed to fellowship with the public. She was not allowed to worship at the Temple. She lived a life of solitude, as well as physical suffering.
- Many today are unclean before the Lord. They are defiled by their sin and have no fellowship with Him. They may attend the house of God, but they can't worship because there is no relationship.

B. She was Desperate – [She had spent all her living upon physicians; neither could be healed of any](#). This woman had done all that she knew to do. She had been to every doctor she could

find. She had spent all her living in hopes of being cured, but couldn't find any healing. Mark's gospel reveals that [she had spent all she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse](#). Life wasn't getting any better, in fact, it was getting worse. Her situation worsened with each passing day.

- Many in our day are much the same. They have spent all their living searching for real joy and peace. They have spent their lives seeking that one thing that could satisfy. Sadly, most of the time their lives don't get any better, but they continue to worsen with time. The endless search continues with little or no comfort. The search will continue until they meet the Lord. He alone has the power to transform our lives and give us that we so desperately seek.
- Healing is not found in the avenues of this world. Peace and contentment will elude those who seek it among the world. Many live lives filled with tragedy because they never come to the realization that they need the Lord. They are determined to work it out on their own and according to their plan.
- This woman's plans and attempts ended in failure. You will never possess what you need in life apart from Christ! There may be some small victories and joys, but Jesus is the only answer for the cares and troubles of life. She traveled from one doctor to another. Many today try one vice or pleasure after another, but what they seek is not found.

I. The Tragedy Described (43)

II. The Touch Desired (42b, 44) – She had dealt with her infirmity for twelve long years, but she had heard of One who gave her hope. Notice:

A. Her Challenge (42b) – [But as He went the people thronged Him](#). Keep in mind that the people were waiting for Jesus when He arrived in Galilee. This event took place in the year of Jesus' popularity. His fame preceded Him wherever he went. Long before Jesus came into town, the word had spread and crowds had gathered. If she was to get to Jesus, she had to overcome the obstacle of the people. Quite literally the world stood between her and the Lord. This was a challenge that had to be addressed.

- This same is true in our day as well. It has been over 2,000 years and the world still stands between men and the Lord.
- This world doesn't want you to get to Jesus. It has no use for Him. I can assure you that if you get sincere in getting to Jesus, the adversary will see to it that there are obstacles in your way. He will place all that he can before you and cause you to focus on the difficulty, the storm, or the crowd.

- Church I want to speak to us for just a moment before we leave this thought. We are here to exalt the Lord and point lost sinners and hurting saints to Him. We are not here to be seen or heard. We are not here for our own agenda. (Illus. the preacher, the portrait behind the pulpit, and the little girl's response.) We must not get in the way of those who need the Lord.

B. Her Confidence (44) – She came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. Mat.9:21 – For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

- She had known great disappointment before. She had spent twelve years and all that she had on empty promises and no healing. But somehow this was different. She knew that Jesus was not like the rest. She was confident that if she could just get to Jesus she would be made whole.

- Do we possess that kind of confidence? We talk of faith and know that God is able to meet our needs and yet many times we live defeated lives. We sing of a risen Savior who is alive and well, but often live as if He were not.

- In Jesus' day, Jewish men wore tassels on the hem of their garments. This was where their authority was displayed. She was seeking the authority and power of the Son of God.

I. The Tragedy Displayed

II. The Touch Desired

III. The Transformation Discovered (45-48) – Her life may have been filled with tragedy and desperation for twelve long years, but things were about to change. Her life was soon to be completely transformed. The attributes of her transformation will be evident in all who experience the touch of Christ.

A. It was Perceived (45) – And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? She had but touched the hem of His garment and immediately Jesus knew that someone had touched Him. The crowds were thronging Him; many wanted to get close to the Lord and likely desired some miracle. No doubt Jesus had casually brushed up against many during those few moments, but this touch was different; this was a touch in faith. Jesus knew that someone had touched Him by faith. He knew that someone had believed in faith!

- When you get close enough to touch the Lord by faith, I assure you that He will know and He will respond. He will not let a touch of faith go without notice. Ps.37:5 – Commit thy way

unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. 1 Pet.3:12a – For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers:

B. It was Personal (46) – And Jesus said, **Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.** Peter and the others had no idea what had just happened, but Jesus knew that someone in the crowd had received healing. He knew that **virtue** had gone out of Him. That literally means “*strength, power, or ability.*” His glorious power had been transferred to someone in the crowd that day.

- A multitude was around Jesus. Many had touched Him in some way or another, but she was the only one that received a transforming touch. She had come in faith and the Lord had met her need. No doubt others desired a touch, but probably due to a lack of faith, they didn't receive it.
- Jesus always works on a personal basis. To my knowledge I was the only one who was saved at the moment and place that I was. He wasn't looking for the masses that day; He was looking for me! Our relationship with the Lord is personal. Ninety eight percent of this congregation could be saved, but that wouldn't guarantee your salvation. It is personal!
- This is such a blessing. The majority may not have received a thing that day, but she did. She got what she needed because she came in faith. The world, or even the majority of the church, may not desire a touch from the Lord and will not receive it, but that shouldn't hinder you. You can touch Him and He will touch you if that is what you desire!

C. It was Publicized (47) – And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, **she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him and how she was healed immediately.** The woman made a public profession of what the Lord had done for her. She maybe had hoped to slip in, receive her healing, and slip away, but she was compelled to tell all the people of her healing.

- When Jesus does a work in your heart or life, you won't be able to keep in quiet. If someone as big as the Lord lives within, He will be revealed from time to time. We will have to tell it once in a while.
- In fact we are commanded to tell of what the Lord has done for us and confess Him before others. **Mat.10:32 – Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.** **Rom.10:9-10 – That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

D. It was Powerful (48) – And he said unto her, **Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.** She had spent all her living seeking healing, but just one touch from the Lord made her whole. She was immediately transformed by His mighty touch.

- Jesus was moved by her faith. This is the only time that Jesus called a woman daughter in all of Scripture. He encouraged her to [be of good comfort](#). This has the idea of “*cheer, courage, confidence, or great boldness in faith.*” Her time with the Lord had brought great and immediate blessing.
- The same remains true in our day. There is nothing like the touch of Jesus. I was eleven years old when He saved me. I haven’t always been what I should’ve been, but I’ve been saved since that time. He immediately transformed my life from condemnation to glorious life in Him.

There is a good number here today, but only those who seek the Lord will receive His touch. You can have what you desire, but you must seek Him. Have you tried this world and what it offers only to find more disappointment? Why not come and let Jesus transform your life? He has the power to do so and He stands waiting for you today.