

## **If I Could Just Touch His Garment**

Deacon Tom

Today's Gospel presents Mark's story within a story.... Two unrelated events but are they really unrelated? Jesus heals the Synagogue leader's daughter, touching her and raising her from the sleep of death... and healing the woman's flow of blood simply by the woman reaching out and touching his garment.

I was telling some friends recently that I have gone to Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio some 15 summers — each year, attending the priest/deacon retreat. We always had great speakers like Dr. Scott Hahn, several Professors including Bible and Dead Sea Scrolls expert Dr. John Bergsma... and each time, we had multiple nights of Adoration. They always processed the Monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament up and down the aisles. It was always... always so faith inspiring to see 100's of priests and deacons on their knees for Adoration — and many times, priests or others reaching out to touch the garment of the priest carrying Jesus up and down the aisles. So very powerful.

I was looking at a few stories of people who have grown in their love of Adoration.... A woman named Nanci said she knows that there are people who say that God is everywhere — why do they need to go to an almost near empty church or Adoration chapel... she says she understands what some others say —

'yes, God is truly everywhere' — but it's like the woman in the Gospel story who wanted the immediacy... the physical reality of being next to the Lord Jesus... and when you come to recognize that you are one person intimately close to Jesus in Adoration — it's much different than saying that Jesus is out there in the forest or on a mountain hillside...

This is the story of Nora related to the practice of Eucharistic Adoration.

She said she had been praying during her weekly hour of Adoration for many years. Her intention: Primarily for her husband to return to the Mass and Sacraments — he had been away from them for 26 years. He didn't even come into the Church when the children were making their first Holy Communion and Confirmations.

On a wet and very cold winter's day he dropped Nora near the door to the Adoration chapel for her holy hour. He asked her to hurry out after the hour as he wanted to go to an important meeting after he took her home. After the hour, he came and waited for her outside in the car. He finally came to collect Nora inside because he had lost patience — he hurried into the Adoration Chapel to hurry her to get moving.

She pretended not to see him and he sat down very impatiently for some minutes. Finally, she got up and left and he came speedily after her. She expected a lot of anger and complaints.

Back in the car, he turned to her calmly and quietly said, 'I'm not going to that meeting I mentioned... But instead I am going to see the priest — meeting him in his office. I'm going to ask him to hear my confession... He said, something came over me as I entered the Adoration chapel... and I felt God calling me back again. He received Confession that day and became a daily mass goer and a weekly adorer for the very first time.

The wife attributed this change in her husband to her prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

**“Do you realize that Jesus is there in the Blessed Sacrament expressly for you, for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart!” (St. Therese of Lisieux)**

**“A Holy Hour before the Most Blessed Sacrament so pleases the Heart of Jesus, that every man, woman and child on earth receives a new effect of God's graces.” (St. Faustina)**

Lec 324: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3 ! Mk 5:21-4

## **2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30, 19:3**

9 Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging\* between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. <sup>10</sup>A man saw it, and told Joab, 'I saw Absalom hanging in an oak. <sup>14</sup>Joab said, 'I will not waste time like this with you. 'He took three spears in his hand, and thrust them into the heart of Absalom, while he was still alive in the oak.

24 Now David was sitting between the two gates. The sentinel went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he looked up, he saw a man running alone. <sup>25</sup>The sentinel shouted and told the king. The king said, 'If he is alone, there are tidings in his mouth. 'He kept coming, and drew near. <sup>30</sup>The king said, 'Turn aside, and stand here. 'So he turned aside, and stood still. <sup>3</sup>The troops stole into the city that day as soldiers steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle.

### **Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman**

**21** 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. **22** Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. **23** 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." **24** So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. **25** And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.

**26** 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. **27** When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, **28** because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." **29** Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

**30** At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

**31** "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

**32** But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.

**33** Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. **34** He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

**35** While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

**36** Overhearing[a] what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

**37** He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. **38** When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. **39** He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." **40** But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. **41** He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). **42** Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. **43** He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.