

Living the Word

A Bible Study for Missionary Discipleship

Session 13

Mark 5: 25-34

“Who touched me?”



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OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture. Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News. Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others. Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions. (Prayer for the New Evangelization-USCCB)

OPENING PSALM

(one person (or group) take line 1 and one person (or group) take line 2)

Psalm 118:

A Song of Victory

Group 1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Group 2 Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Group 1 Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me in a broad place. With the LORD on my side I do not fear. What can mortals do to me?

Group 2 The LORD is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

OPENING REFLECTION VIDEO

[Learn Lectio Divina](#)



THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE

“Daughter, your faith has saved you.”

Mark 5: 25-34

Mark 5: 25-34 Jesus heals woman hemorrhaging.

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, “If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured.” Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who has touched my clothes?” But his disciples said to him, “You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.”

REFLECTION

On the outside looking in... Can you imagine the 12 years of pain and torture... Yeah, maybe physically, but what about socially? Cutoff from worship? Out of community? The lack of physical touch? Spending her days by the side of the road just waiting, waiting for a miracle. This road is well-travelled; people passing by all the time. Caravans of people passing through, not giving a second glance, a second chance. She sits by the side of the road just waiting for her turn to get back in.

She has heard of Jesus before. She knows the name, she knows some of his work, and she knows that he must be something special if so many people are talking about him. Is he the key, the ticket to get back in? What would it mean to see him, to talk with him, to touch him?! But there is no way that she could reach out and touch him; he would then be unclean too. Jesus would not want to bother with her problems... he has so many other things to do, people to see, talks to give, and miracles to work that he would not want to bother with this person.

As a caravan approaches, she hears the mumblings of the crowd. Is this the one; is this the Jesus that she has been hearing about?! This is the chance, the opportunity. But what to do? Stand up and shout? Wave arms at him? Get the attention of one of his followers? No, she can't possibly do that. She might as well just let him pass by in peace, she can clearly see that he is on a mission to go somewhere. Just don't bother him, and she hangs her head in dejection.

Her heart starts to swell with anticipation as Jesus comes closer. She realizes there is no way she can sit at the side of the road and let him pass by. Faith has moved her. Faith has invited her reach out. Not standing up, not standing in front of Jesus, but rather she sneaks on the ground. She sneaks up from behind him and IT HAPPENS! The hem of his garment; she touched it! Suddenly there is a great surge within her. Something that cannot be described, something that leaves her speechless, terrified. Now what? I need to hide, to disappear. Did this just happen?!

"Who touched me?"—the words echo in her soul. She knows that it is her; Jesus found out. Does that make him unclean now? What did I do?! In the midst of the rumblings of the followers, her heart is stirring—I must tell him. Lying at his feet, she tells him everything. It is all out there; the judgment, the fear, the pain, the hurt, the hope, the joy, and the faith; there for him to see, to hear. "Daughter, your faith has saved you" how glorious it sounds! Her heart is pumping with joy, with...LOVE! "Thank you Jesus! Thank... you... Jesus!" For what else can she say?

PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYER

Second Luminous mystery – Wedding at Cana, Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's, Glory be.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

So often we get caught up in the crowd that is walking on the road. Focused on taking the next step, having good conversation with the people around us, laughing and carrying on, and yet it is so easy to miss this person sitting on the side of the road. The person who is hurting, who is in pain. The one who has been passed by as an outsider, one who deserves to be on the edge. We don't know their story, but their heart is stirring, stirring to meet with Jesus, to only reach out and touch the hem of cloak. And how often it is that I try to stand in the way and make excuses for why someone shouldn't touch him.

Accompaniment should make way for the person to touch his cloak. How can I help you reach out to him? Do I get so focused that I lose sight of those around me who are trying to touch his cloak that they sneak around me to get to Jesus; am I a barrier or bridge to Jesus? As we journey with Christ, may we have the strength, hope, and courage to help those sitting alongside the road feeling like Jesus doesn't know or care, and let's see that caravan grow!

Reflect on the question presented above: How can I be a bridge to Jesus? Am I ever a barrier to someone experiencing the Love of Jesus Christ?

Think of people in your family, neighborhood, parish and/or community who are like this woman. They are isolated, perhaps rejected by others, or have no one who seems to care. How can you be like Jesus and rather than just walk by their lives instead stop and let them know Jesus loves them?

CALL TO ACTION

Select one person that you thought about in the second question above and seek to bring the love of Jesus to them. When you think of the person, first pray for them for one week, then initiate a contact (phone call, zoom, knock on their door, meeting for Coffee when you can) and reflect the love of Jesus to them. Then work to maintain contact so that this person does not again withdraw into loneliness and isolation.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, you send your disciples on mission to make God's love and mercy known. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we go forth as your missionary disciples, reflecting God's love in the world and speaking the name of Jesus to others. May the Going Forth As Disciples ministry bear fruit in our community and parish as it prepares us to accompany others toward You and Your Church. Who live and reign with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.