

1/27/00

### The Woman With The Issue of Blood

Some one has said that if you could convince a man there was no hope, he would curse the day he was born. Hope is an indispensable quality of life.

Years ago the S-4 submarine was rammed by another ship and quickly sank. The entire crew was trapped in it's prison house of death. Ships rushed to the scene of disaster off the coast of Massachusetts as men clung bravely to life as the oxygen slowly gave out.

A diver placed his helmet ear to the side of the vessel and listened. He heard a tapping out a question in the dots and dashes of the Morse code. The question came slowly:  
"Is...there...any...hope?"

This seems to be the cry of humanity in the search to quench it's spiritual thirst: "Is there any hope?" Hope indeed, is the basis of all human existence in Christ! # 2273

Such was the case of the woman with the issue of blood which is mentioned in all three synoptic gospels but we will use Mark's account. Matt. 9:18-26, Mk. 5:21-43, Lk. 8:40-56

The account of the woman is described by a three movements. Mk. 5:21-43

- I. The woman's condition. vs. 21-26
- II. The woman's confidence. vs. 27-28
- III. The woman's cure. vs. 29-43

#### I. The woman's condition.

- A. The context of the story is vital to the story. Mk. 5:21-24
  - 1. Jesus had just crossed over from Gadara. vs. 21a
    - a. The people had rejected Jesus, in fact they asked Him to leave.
    - b. The demoniac at Gadara had just been delivered from demons and sent back to his friends and family to tell them the great things Jesus had done for him.
  - 2. Jesus has just arrived on the other side of the Sea of Galilee and a great multitude gathered to Him. vs. 21b-c
  - 3. Jesus is then approached by a man. vs. 22-23
    - a. The man is identified to be one of the rulers of the synagogue, whose name was Jairus. vs. 22a-b
      - 1) The ruler was responsible for the arrangement at the synagogue services.
      - 2) This particular ruler possibly was the Centurion who had built the synagogue in Capernaum?

- b. The man seeing Jesus, fell at His feet.  
vs. 22c-d
  - c. The man's petition was in desperation begging that He might come and heal his little daughter who was at the point of death. vs. 23
    - 1) He sought Jesus out of love for his only daughter. Lk. 8:42
    - 2) He acknowledged his faith in Jesus, asking that He come and lay His hands on her, that she may be healed and live.
  - 4. Jesus went with him and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him. vs. 24
    - a. The anxious relief of the father must of been incredible.
    - b. The pressing through the crowd that was impeding their progress must of been frustrating.
- B.** The chronic condition of the woman is described. Mk. 5:25-26
- 1. The woman had a flow of blood for twelve years. vs. 25
    - a. Her condition was one of having had a monstrous cycle for twelve year straight.
      - 1) This would cause her to be unclean according to the Law of Leviticus. Lev. 15:19-23

- 2) The woman could be divorced for such a condition.
  - 3) The woman often was shut out of society and family, living a lonely life.
  - 4) The woman would be cut off from public worship.
  - 5) The woman for all practical purposes had been living all alone.
- b.** The woman was an unclean woman.
- 1) Everything she touched became unclean.
  - 2) Whoever she touched or touched her was ceremonial unclean till the evening.
    - \* "Everything that she lies on during her impurity shall be unclean; also everything that she sits on shall be unclean. Whoever touches her bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening." Lev. 15:20-21
  - 3) Any man who touched her sexually would be cut off from Israel.
    - \* "If a man lies with a woman during her sickness and uncovers her nakedness, he has exposed her flow, and she has uncovered the flow of her blood. Both of them

shall be cut off from their people.”  
Lev. 20:18

2. The woman exhausted every hope. vs. 26
  - a. The woman had suffered many things from many physicians.
    - 1) She was their jinni pig.
    - 2) She was their hope of fame.
    - 3) She was devastated emotionally.
  - b. The woman had spent all that she had and was no better but rather grew worse.
    - \* Luke being a physician doesn't mention this detail!
      - 1) She was destitute of finances.
      - 2) She was destitute of friends.
      - 3) She was destitute of physical health.

**C.** The conditions of Jairus' daughter and the woman have uncanny contrasting similarities.

- \* The two stories are inseparable and are woven together as one!
  1. The daughter had lived twelve years of joy, while the woman had lived twelve years of sorrow.
  2. The daughter had reached the end of her life having entered adulthood after twelve years, while the woman had lived as dead for twelve years of her adult life.

3. The daughter had someone pleading for her, while the woman did not.
4. The daughter had someone who loved her, while the woman had no one.
5. The daughter's healing was sought out in last hope, while the woman reached out as a last hope.

### **Illustration**

One day as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him." Jn. 9:1-3

\* God in His sovereign wisdom takes the results of the fall and uses them as He will for His glory!

### **Application**

1. The sickness, birth defects and diseases and even death that we see all around us, is the result of sin having entered the world through the one man Adam. Rom. 5:12
  - a. God never intended what we see.
  - b. God intended for Adam and Eve to live in a paradise and live forever in fellowship with Him.
2. The hand of illness or death respects no one, regardless of age or wealth, both are temporal. 2Cor. 4:16-18

- a. Babies miscarriage, are still born and even die as infants.
  - b. Little children are struck with disease and fatal accidents.
  - c. Young adults, parents and Grand-parents die.
3. The Bible tells us that God will not allow us to be tempted more than we are able to bear, but with every testing, show us the way of escape. 1Cor. 10:13
- a. God will allow desperate moments in our lives by His sovereign wisdom to try us.
  - b. God knowing the end from the beginning will use the circumstances for His glory and purposes, though they may not make any sense to us at the time, as Joseph with his brothers.

*The woman's condition was one of total despair!*

## II. The woman's confidence.

- A. The woman's faith was based on what she had heard about Jesus. Mk. 5:27a
  - 1. She had heard the reports about Jesus.
    - a. The word for heard is "akouo", which means to have the ability to hear as opposed to being deaf.
    - b. The reports must seem incredible yet factual.

- c. The reports varied from hearing the deaf received their hearing, the blind their sight and the lepers were cleansed.
2. She had to consider the claims of Jesus.
- a. He had been saying that He was the Son of God.
  - b. He had been saying that He was the Messiah of the Scriptures.
  - c. He had been saying that He was the representative of the Father.
  - d. He had been saying that He had come to heal the brokenhearted or downtrodden, to proclaim liberty to the captives and liberty to those oppressed. Lk. 4:18
- B. The woman's faith was in believing what she had heard about Jesus. Mk. 5:27b-28
- 1. She acted on her knowledge and came behind Jesus in the crowd and touched His garment. vs. 27b
    - a. She acted in faith.
    - b. She put her entire trust in Him.
    - c. She put aside all the possible dangers by the crowd.
    - d. She reached out and touched Jesus by his garment.
      - 1) Luke tells us that it was the border of His garment. Lk. 8:44

- 2) In the Old Testament God commanded the children of Israel to make tassels of white and blue on the four corners of their garments to remind them of all the commandments, to do them and not follow harlatry, which their eyes were inclined. Num. 15:37-41, Deut. 22:12
- e. The woman was acting in faith depending on Jehovah's word not in idolatry worship of a man but God in the person of Jesus.  
\* The word touched "haptomai" means to fasten one self to, adhere or cling to.
2. She conversed with herself, "If only I may touch Hs clothes." vs. 28a-b
- a. The woman reasoned that if Jesus could do what He had done for others, certainly she might have a chance to be healed.
- b. The woman reasoned that she had to make personal contact with Jesus to receive the healing.
3. She concluded, "I shall be made well." vs. 28c
- a. The woman believed God was her only hope.
- b. The woman believed Jesus was her great physician.

- c. The woman acted in Biblical faith because she was believing the word of God to do what He said He could do.

### **Illustration**

One day Jesus was coming down from the Sermon on the Mount and a leper met Him and said, Lord if You are willing You can make me clean! He had been living as a dead man but now restored back to society and life! Matt. 8:1-4

### **Application**

1. Faith is the key to see God work in our lives.  
\* "For without faith it is impossible to please God, for those who come to God must believe that He is and that He is the rewarder who diligently seek Him. Heb. 11:6
2. Faith is not something we work up but God working in us and our stepping out in faith to His leading.  
\* Faith come by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Rom. 10:17
3. Faith is acting on what a person hears from God to them personally, which will always be according to His word and not contrary to it.  
\* Jesus told the man with the withered hand, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. Matt. 12:13

*The woman's confident faith was entirely on Jesus!*

### III. The woman's cure.

- A. The woman was healed instantly. Mk. 5:29
  - 1. Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up. vs. 29a
    - a. This is not a statement of speculation but fact.
    - b. This is the record of divine healing that took place in the life of this woman.
  - 2. Immediately she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. vs. 29b
    - a. The woman immediately physically felt the drying up of her condition.
    - b. The woman immediately physically felt better.
- B. The Lord sensed the woman's faith in Him to be healed. Mk. 5:30-31
  - 1. Jesus immediately knew that power had gone out of Him.
    - a. The word knowing "epiginosko" means to thoroughly know or know completely.
    - b. The Lord Jesus didn't need that any man testify of man, for He knew what was in man. Jn. 2:25

- c. The Lord sensed power "dunamis" which means inherent power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth.
  - \* His very nature of God healed her.
- 2. Jesus immediately turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?"
  - a. Jesus is always looking for public confession.
  - b. Jesus did not come to call secret disciples.
- 3. Jesus immediately heard His disciples response, "You see the multitude thronging You and You say, "Who touched Me?"
  - a. The disciples who Jesus had chosen through an entire night in prayer were mere men at best.
  - b. The disciples were not always the most sensitive to the greatest need.
  - c. The disciples were not able to discern the touch of one who had faith at this point of their discipleship.
  - d. The disciples were a bit short with the Lord in view of the crowds.
- C. The woman was commended by the Lord. Mk. 5:32-34

1. Jesus looked around to see her who had touched Him. vs. 32
  - a. Not to see who would reveal themselves for He knew who she was.
  - b. But rather to affirm the goodness of God in her healing.
2. Jesus knew that the woman was fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her. vs. 33
  - a. Her response was to fall down before Him and worshipped Him.
  - b. Her words were an honest confession of her actions.
3. Jesus comforted the woman's heart. vs. 34
  - a. He called her, "Daughter", a phrase of a loving father and One who cared.
  - b. He affirm the rightness of her actions, "Your faith has made you well".
  - c. He commanded her to go in peace and healed of her afflictions.
    - 1) Without any doubt as Jesus always did, He most likely sent her to the priest to present herself in order to be examined and declared clean in order to re-enter society.
    - 2) With this testimony the healing would be affirmed for those who doubted.
    - 3) With this she would live for the first time in twelve years.

- D. The woman's healing was used for the sake of Jairus' faith in Jesus for the healing of his daughter. Mk. 5:35-43
  1. The ruler Jairus must of been going crazy by this time, knowing that every minute lost meant certain death to his daughter, while Jesus was saying to the woman "be healed", Jairus' suspicions were only verified by a messenger from his house, declaring, "Your daughter I dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" vs. 35
  2. The Lord hearing the words of the messenger told Jairus, "Do not be afraid; only believe/" vs. 36
    - a. Jesus was fully aware of the little girl's condition, it was not new to Him.
    - b. Jesus was fully aware of the anxiety of Jairus' loving heart for his daughter.
    - c. Jesus had given to Jairus a sample of what He was capable of doing for this woman , when all other resources and hopes had been exhausted.
  3. The Lord Jesus also used this occasion to teach His disciples to have faith in Him. vs. 37-40a
    - a. He permitted only Peter, James and John to follow Him. vs. 37

- b. He came to the house of Jairus where a tumult wept and wailed loudly, asking them why they were making such a commotion, for the child was not dead, but asleep. vs. 38-39
  - 1) These were professional mourners who were hired to lament.
  - 2) The rebuke is not a mark of being insensitive by Jesus but the very consciousness of their insincere lamenting for hire.
- c. He was ridiculed by them. vs. 40a
- 4. The Lord Jesus allowed only the father and mother and His three disciples to enter the room where the little girl was lying. vs. 40b-43
  - a. Jesus put everyone out except for the five individuals. vs. 40b-e
  - b. Jesus took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cumi”, in Aramaic, which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”. vs. 41  
\* Her spirit returned, “Little lamb arise.” Lk 8:54
  - c. Immediately the girl arose and walked and they were overcome with great amazement. vs. 42
  - e. Jesus commanded them strictly that no one should know it and that someone should give her to eat. vs. 43

### **Illustration**

Remember the butler of Pharaoh who had received the interpretation of his dream and was restored? When Pharaoh had a dream and no one could interpret it, God used that event for the butler to work through Pharaoh. Gen. 49:9-14

### **Application**

1. In the Scriptures we see that God heals in different ways.
  - a. This particular woman was healed immediately.
  - b. At other times were healed progressively, like the blind man when Jesus spit in his eyes and he saw men as trees at first and then Jesus put His fingers in the man’s eyes and he saw clearly. Mk. 8:23-25
2. In the Bible the faith for healing is not always due to the one who is sick.
  - a. This woman’s faith in particular, is said to be the cause, by the very words of Jesus.
  - b. The paralytic that was lowered down from the roof was healed by the faith of his friends, Jesus said. Mk. 2:5
  - c. The dead man of Nain was raised sovereignly by Jesus, being her only son He had compassion for the widow mother, who would of been destitute. Lk. 7:11-14
3. In life God will use His miraculous power in the lives of individuals to instill faith in others.

- a. We are to consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb. 10: 24-25
- b. We are not to compare one another to each other, “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Rom. 12:3

*The woman’s cure was the stepping stone for the raising of Jairus’ daughter!*

### **Conclusion**

Next time you read the account of this woman, remember:

- I.** The woman’s condition was one of total despair!
- II.** The woman’s confident faith was entirely on Jesus!
- III.** The woman’s cure was the stepping stone for the raising of Jairus’ daughter!