

Faith in Jesus Makes All the Difference

Mark 5:21-34

"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." - H.D. Thoreau. Many things in life can lead us to desperation. The storms of life can make us desperate. Evil around and within us can make us desperate. Disease and death can make us desperate. Someone has said, "Sickness is the Great Interrupter of life. It enters without knocking, thwarting all plans, mocking the idea of certainty, and diminishing hope for the future. It intrudes like a burglar in our home, touching every part of life." Things like this drive us to desperation because they appear to be impossible situations.

In the last part of Mark 4 through the end of chapter 5 we encounter four impossible cases. Four situations which are absolutely, humanly speaking, hopeless and impossible. First in Mark 4 we encountered the case of the ***Dangerous Storm***, a storm that scared Jesus' disciples to death. But Jesus steps in, calms the storm with His word, and displays His power over nature. Last week we looked at the case of the ***Demonic Man***, a maniac that no one could tame. But Jesus steps in and frees Him from the evil inside Him, and displays power over demonic forces. Today we will consider the case of the ***Diseased Woman***, and then finally next time, the case of the ***Dead Girl***. All four of these situations were considered impossible in the Lord's day and they still are in our own day as well.

But Mark shows that Jesus is more than adequate for every situation, there are no impossible situations with Him. We have seen that man's extremity is God's opportunity. Our need, our desperate dire need, is always God's opportunity to do something great. I know there's a lot of people here with needs, and that ought to help you. We have seen that the Lord Jesus was victorious over danger, over demons, we're going to see that He is victorious over disease and over death itself, the last enemy. He is sufficient for every circumstance that we can face.

We pick up the story in 5:21. Follow along as I read it today:

- 21 Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea.**
- 22 And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet**
- 23 and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live."**
- 24 So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.**
- 25 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years,**
- 26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.**
- 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.**
- 28 For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."**

- 29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.
- 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"
- 31 But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, Who touched Me?" "
- 32 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing.
- 33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.
- 34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."
- 35 While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"
- 36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."
- 37 And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.
- 38 Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly.
- 39 When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."
- 40 And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying.
- 41 Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."
- 42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.
- 43 But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that something should be given her to eat.

As you may have noticed, this section of Mark is a story within a story. We begin with the story of Jairus, the synagogue ruler, who asks Jesus to come heal his dying daughter. Jesus is on His way to heal her when He is interrupted by this diseased woman who comes and touches the hem of His garment.

Both of these stories have the same emphasis, FAITH. As Jesus was journeying this day, He was thronged by a crowd, the people were pressing all around Him, but in that crowd there was a weak, timid, dying woman who reached out in faith and touched Jesus Christ, when she did, her life was transformed. The point is: **What a difference faith in Jesus makes!** Some of you here today need a transformation. You need your life to be radically changed. Jesus can do it today when you put your faith in Him.

I. THE HORROR SHE ENDURED V. 24-26

A. **Her Symptoms** - V. 25 - We are told that she suffered from "*an issue of blood*". She was hemorrhaging, or bleeding, from some part of her body. The

word “**issue**” means “**a flowing of blood**”. Whatever may have caused this internal hemorrhage, she was a very sick woman.

B. Her Sufferings - V. 26 - A constant flow of blood, such as this, would have caused this woman untold suffering.

1. **She Had Suffered Physically** - From the constant blood loss, this poor woman would have been **weak and anemic**. She would have been **pale**. She would have been a weak, pathetic creature! The word “**affliction**” in verse 29 is the same word that is translated “**whip**” elsewhere. Her disease was like a scourge, constantly beating her down, day by day!

Mark also tells us that she “**suffered many things from many physicians.**” Have any of you felt that way? She had tried all the remedies of all the doctors of her day. Most supposed cures from the doctors in that day were mere superstitions.

The Talmud, which is a body of Jewish civil and religious laws added to the Old Testament by the Jews, listed eleven cures an issue of blood like this lady had. Listen to some: "Take the gum of Alexandria, the weight of a small silver coin; of allum the same; of crocus the same. Let them be bruised together, and given in wine to the woman that had an issue of blood. If this does not benefit, take of Persian onions three pints, boil them in wine. Give her to drink and say: 'Arise from thy flux', and if this does not cure her, set her in a place where two ways meet, and let her hold a cup of wine in her right hand, and let someone come behind and frighten her and say, 'Arise from thy flux.'" It is hard for us to imagine the kinds of indignities those doctors put her through.

2. **She Had Suffered Religiously** - Under the Law of the Old Testament, **Lev. 15:19; 25-27**, this woman was to be considered unclean. Anything or anyone that she touched was also considered unclean. As a result, she could not mingle with people in public, lest she cause them to be defiled.

3. **She Had Suffered Financially** - Verse 26 tells us “**She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse**”. The quack doctors and their useless remedies had not helped her. All they had done was drain her bank account dry. She has been left penniless and destitute.

4. **She Had Suffered Socially** - If she had ever been married, her husband and family would have been forced to stay away from her. She could not work around others because of the danger of defilement. This probably reduced her to a life of begging scraps of food from a distance. Her condition left her on the fringes of society.

5. **She Had Suffered Emotionally** - She had been this way for 12 years. She has lived her life moving from one rejection to another. She is lonely, isolated and desperate! Her life is literally draining out of her body little by little, day by day. I have no doubt she has just about given up!

(Note: I wonder how many people can identify with this poor woman today? Maybe you don't have her illness, but like her, you are filled with suffering and sorrow today. Well, she does picture two types of people today:

1. ***This woman paints a clear picture of every person who does not know Jesus Christ as Savior.*** You see, all people are also defiled by a blood disease.

We inherited this disease from our first father, Adam, **Rom. 5:12**. Sin is a condition that plagues whole human race, and every person in particular, **Rom. 3:10; 23; Gal. 3:22**. Our condition made no better despite all our efforts and the efforts of society. Many lost people spend their youth and even their entire lives searching for meaning and help for their condition, but instead of getting better they only get worse; they only get harder in their hearts and more deeply rooted in their sins. All the efforts at self-improvement and religion will not help your condition!

This poor woman was in a sad shape, but she wasn't even close to being as bad off as that person who is not saved by grace. She was merely headed to the grave, they are headed to an eternity in Hell, **Psa. 9:17; Rom. 6:23!**

2. *She is a picture of that believer who is laboring under a heavy burden.*

Many of God's children are discouraged and defeated today. You have tried everything in your power to get better. You have tried everything you know to handle your problems. You've read all the books, listened to all the preachers, and gotten advise from the best of sources, but you are no better. Your life is just as messed up as it ever was. Well, friend, if that is you today, keep on listening, because as we watch this poor woman get the help she needs, we are going to find out about the help we need as well.)

II. THE HOPE SHE EMBRACED V. 27-28

Somewhere, from some source, this poor woman heard about Jesus. Maybe she had heard how He had healed the leper back in **Mark 1:40-42**, or the paralyzed man in Mark 2. Maybe she had heard about that wild man just across the lake that Jesus had helped, **Mark 5:1-20**. No doubt she had heard that there was power in His touch. But, she didn't want Him to touch her. She wanted to touch Him.

A. **The Determination She Held** - V. 28 - Regardless of where she heard about Him, she knew she had to get to Him. She had come to realize that Jesus was her only hope! She believed with all her heart that if she could just get to Him, she would be healed. She had to be determined, because she demonstrated great courage by approaching Jesus in that crowd. As she elbowed her way through the people, she was causing ceremonial defilement for everyone she touched. She was taking a great risk, for if she had been recognized, she would have been subjected to public humiliation and ridicule and possible retribution. For her, it was a risk worth taking. She knew what Jesus could do for her if she could just get to Him!

She had to be determined, because by the very nature of her disease, it would have taken all the energy she had to drag herself out of her bed to struggle through that crowd to get to Jesus. She was desperate!

Have you reached that place in your life yet? Have you come to understand that Jesus is the only hope you have? If you have never trusted Jesus to save you, then you need to come to Him. Jesus is your only hope. You need to touch Him by faith!

Others, who are saved, but like this woman are burdened and defeated, need to touch Him as well. The sooner you come to realize that Jesus is the only person Who can help you, the sooner you can get the help you need!

III. THE HEALING SHE EXPERIENCED V. 29-34

A. **It Was Powerful** - V. 29 - When she was near enough to Him, she reached out a trembling hand and touched His garment. The word “***touched***” means “***to cling to or to adhere to***”. In other words, she held onto Him until she got what she came after! Then, immediately, in that instant, she received what none of the doctors or their costly and painful remedies could give her; she was healed! Instantly, she felt the change in her body. She knew she was a different woman!

B. **It Was Personal** - V. 30-33 - As soon as this woman touches Him, Jesus knows what has happened. Just for the record, He knew about it before it happened! But, He knows that “***power***” has gone out of Him. Jesus knows what has happened and He asks the question in **verse 30**, “***Who touched My clothes?***” Of course, there were dozens of people touching Him and bumping into Him that day, a fact pointed out by the disciples, **v. 31**, but her touch was different, it was a touch accompanied by faith. ***Many touched Him, but only one touched Him with the fingers of faith!***

When Jesus spoke to this woman, you will notice that she fell before Him in fear. Here is the very reason she came silently from behind Him to touch Him, instead of coming to Him openly. She was afraid of rejection! She needn't have feared that! Jesus was not interested in humiliating her. He was not interested in driving her away from His presence. He was not interested in preaching her a sermon on uncleanness from the Law. He was merely interested in helping her with her problem!

But, Jesus got the response from her He had wanted and anticipated. She came before Him, and bowed at His feet and confessed everything to Him. This was a public acknowledgment of what had happened in her heart. She was different and she wasn't ashamed to tell others about it!

Remember, Jesus was on His way to heal Jairus' daughter, **v. 22-24**. His little girl is at the point of death! As Jesus makes His way to this man's house, He is surrounded by the surging crowd. *Yet, in spite of the seriousness of His mission, Jesus takes the time to stop for this woman!* At this moment, the crowd might as well not even be there. It has come down to just Jesus and this woman. At that moment she was the most important person in the world. He gave her His complete attention! This woman, cast out, uncared for and unwanted had caught the eye of God because she exercised simple, childlike faith!

Isn't that a blessing? I believe that God, Who controls the path of every atom in every molecule in this universe, has time for you when you call on Him in faith. Don't be afraid that He doesn't care. Don't be afraid that He won't receive you. Do you realize that this woman could have never touched Him had He not become flesh? You see, God became a man, in the first place, so He could die on the cross, **Phil. 2:5-8**. But, He also became a man so that He could be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, **Heb. 4:15-16**. He also became flesh so that we could touch Him! In the Old Testament it says that no man could see God or touch Him. Jesus became a man so that He could identify with us and we with Him. He became a man so that we could touch Him!

C. **It Was Profound** - V. 34 - His words confirmed what she already knew had happened! He calls her “***daughter***”. You see, she got more than physical healing

that day. All her adult life, she has been an outcast, a nobody, dwelling in isolation and loneliness, but now, she hears that she has been taken in by God! Her faith brought her into a soul saving relationship with Jesus Christ. When verse 34 says "**your faith has made you well,**" it literally says, "your faith has saved you!" Yes, she got a whole lot more than she bargained for that day!

He tells her to "**go in peace**". His words let her know that she has done the right thing in coming to Him and touching Him. Any other man in that crowd would have been offended and angered had this diseased woman intentionally touched him, but not Jesus! Jesus took her defilement, on Himself so she could be saved from it. He was willing to be made sin that she might be made the righteousness of God in Him. He was not afraid of ceremonial defilement, because Jesus was sinless, it could not touch Him!

Also think about this: Unlike the physicians, Jesus did not ask for money for His services. What He did He did freely out of love and grace!

Do you need to touch Jesus today? Have you come to understand that whether you are lost in sin, or whether you are battling difficulty, Jesus is your answer? If you have reached the place where all other remedies have failed, all other means have exhausted themselves and you need help right now, I want to invite you to come to Jesus!

You know, in that crowd that day, there were dozens of people with physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. But, only one lady got any help. Dozens touched Jesus, but only one was transformed. Why? Because only one saw Him as her only source! She believed He could help her and she did whatever she had to do to touch Him. When she touched Him, she was made whole! Don't be one of those people who brush up against Jesus this morning and leave unchanged. If you need help, look to Him, He has the power to change your situation. If you need help, get to Him and touch Him by faith!

If I could leave you with anything today, it would be this:

- When sickness comes – Believe Jesus!
- When death comes – Believe Jesus!
- When the bottom falls out of life – Believe Jesus!
- When the answers to your prayers are delayed – Believe Jesus!
- When you are ridiculed for your faith – Believe Jesus!
- When you are looking at a hopeless situation – Believe Jesus!

When I place my problem beside the Lord, it suddenly grows very small. No matter how great it looks in my eyes, it is nothing compared to Him! After all, a God Who can create a universe from nothing can do anything! Jesus -- who can calm the raging sea; who can free a man possessed by a legion of evil; who can heal a disease that no one else can; who can even raise the dead--Jesus can do anything! He can and will save you if you come to Him believing. Come to Him now.