

AN ISSUE OF BLOOD

MARK 5:22-34

Text:

Introduction:

This section of Mark's Gospel is filled with impossible cases.

Today we will consider the account of the healing of diseased woman. Jesus is on His way to heal the daughter of Jairus and He is interrupted as He goes by this woman who comes and touches the hem of His garment.

1. THE WOMAN'S DISEASE (MARK 5:24-26)

A. Her Ailment (vs. 25)

Mark 5:25

²⁵ And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

We are told that she suffered from "an issue of blood". This literally means that she was hemorrhaging, or bleeding.

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

B. Her Agonies (vs. 26)

Mark 5:26

²⁶ And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

A constant flow of blood, such as this, would have caused this woman untold suffering.

1. She suffered physically

From the constant blood loss, this poor woman would have been weak and anemic. She would have been pale. She would have had no energy at all. The least of efforts would have worn her out.

2. She suffered medically

We are also told that she had tried all the remedies of all the physicians of her day. We are told that she “suffered” under their care.

3. She suffered socially

She almost certainly was not married, because through physical contact, she would defile her husband. If she

had ever been married, her husband would have been probably divorced her. She could not work around others because of the danger of defilement. This reduced her to a life of begging scraps of food from a distance. Her condition left her on the fringes of society.

4. She suffered religiously

Under the Law, 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. She could not go to the Women's Court of the Temple, because she was unclean.

C. Her Anguish (vs. 26)

Mark 5:26

²⁶ And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

After all the years, all the doctors, all the times she had hoped this remedy would be the one that would work for her, she has come to the place where she knows she is living under a death sentence. She will not get better, but she will die from this disease. What she has will kill her. Her life is literally draining out of her body little by little, day by day, Lev. 19:11.

2. THE WOMAN'S DESIRE (MARK 5:27-28)

A. The Witness She Heard (vs.27)

Mark 5:27

²⁷ When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

Somewhere, this poor woman heard about Jesus. Maybe she had heard how He had healed that leper, Mark 1:40-42. Maybe she had heard about that wild man just across the lake that Jesus had helped, Mark 5:1-20. Or, maybe some other poor soul, who lived on the fringes of society due to an uncleanness of some sort, had been healed by Jesus and came in and told her about Him. No doubt she had heard that there was power in His touch.

B. The Will She Held (vs. 28)

Mark 5:28

²⁸ For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

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 displayed her determination to get to Jesus by approaching Him 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. A crowd like that might have gotten worked up and beat her or stoned her to death. For her, it was a risk worth taking. She believed Jesus would heal her!

3. THE WOMAN'S DELIVERANCE (MARK 5:29-34)

A. Her Deliverance Was Powerful (vs. 29)

Mark 5:29

²⁹ And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of that plague.

When she was near enough to Him, she reached out a trembling hand and touched His garment.

Then, in that very 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. Her Deliverance Was Personal (vs. 30-33)

Mark 5:30-33

³⁰ And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had

gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? ³¹ And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? ³² And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. ³³ But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

As soon as this woman touches Him, Jesus knows what has happened.

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.

Jesus sought her out because He wanted to give her more than mere physical healing. He wanted to move her beyond her superstitious faith. He wanted to bring her to the place of salvation.

C. Her Deliverance Was Profound (vs. 34)

Mark 5:34

³⁴ And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

His words confirmed what she already knew had happened! Notice that He calls her “daughter”. This is the only time Jesus ever calls a female by this name. The word signifies the fact that they are in a different

relationship now. It is a word of tenderness; a word of peace; a word of acceptance.

D. Her Deliverance Was Permanent (vs. 34)

Mark 5:34

³⁴ And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

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!