

maybe for 20 years if they have committed sin and it has been a burden on their conscience ever since.

Second, the nature of her disease! To me this was a hurdle for her to get over--not only her past life, but the nature of her disease. It must have been something like a tumor; some sort of abscess; or it could have been some kind of obstruction. He does not tell us exactly what her disease was.

But according to the law, even the bed that she slept on was to be burned; the garments she wore were defiled; the house that she lived in was defiled. She had suffered in silence all of this. There was no cure; this was her plight.

Verse 26! "For 12 years she had endlessly and hopelessly struggled." She had spent all that she had, and now she had reduced herself to (poverty.) She was not only helpless but she was also hopeless. Not only was her past a hurdle and the nature of her disease a second hurdle, but there was a third.

We have the problem of how she could get in to see this man. Here was a woman cramped with pain, agonizing pain, and no where to hide.

She committed herself by getting in the crowd and then she began to wedge in and try to work her way along because everything else now was useless. Having heard the things concerning Jesus, they brought inspiration to her.

"GETTING IN TOUCH WITH CHRIST"

Mark 5:28

We have here the claims upon His power and also to understand this we need to see that here is an interlude--a woman had learned her secrets from a seeking Jesus. A nameless witness had mentioned to her something about Jesus and told her the story about Him. It was something like giving a rope to a drowning person, and to that word she responded. I expect that there is someone who is waiting for you to tell them and witness to them about this. Your witness may end by having some person come to Jesus. The healing of the woman who touched his garment is but brief but it has the essential elements for the soul's salvation. We may look at this story and discover how this truth came about.

I want you to first notice that she had four hurdles to get over in coming to Jesus.

First, there was her past, there was the dead weight strapped to her and making her suffer. She was in desperate despair; her plight was that she had been afflicted for 12 years--she had vainly sought healing from many physicians--she had spent all of her money--she had grown worse. She could appreciate the sentiment of anyone who would try to offer hope or relief to her.

Today men seek healing from many physicians. They have



gone to (science) saying, "Explain to me the riddle of the universe tell me whence life came and whether does it go." Science speaks with great authority through its textbooks in college and in the libraries we find copies.

Some have gone to (phylosophy) saying, "Unravel for us the whole system of our existence; satisfy my mind; answer the questions." But phylosophy raises more questions than it answers; it leads to speculation.

There are others who have gone to (pleasure) saying, "I will drink and eat; this will quench my thirst and give me supreme courage; satisfy me with pleasure." But after a night of pleasure we find that this does not bring what we have been looking for.

Humanity (abandoned hope) of ever finding satisfaction in science, in phylosophy, in pleasure and turns in (despair) as this woman to Christ. Her condition was desperate and apart from Christ it was hopeless for we realize that for 12 long years this woman had suffered and yet she was alive. The (period) of her trouble had been as long as the years of (Jarius's) daughter in life. You remember Jesus was on His way to heal this little girl of 12 years who was desperately sick at this hour and who was eventually to die. She was suffering from an issue of blood.

In the 15th chapter of the book of (Leviticus) in verses 19-27 we find careful instructions as to what any person suffering from any form of malady was to do for treatment. They were to

be segerated from the company of worshipers as long as it continued. This woman had suffered from her malady for 12 years and this was a long period to be segerated in the certain ways that the rules were laid down. These doctors had in all probability done their utmost for her, but they had failed. They had not cured her at all in fact.

This woman was shut off from religious rites and for the same cause she had been shut off from her family. All of this meant that she had been cast out of society.

She spent all she had only to find that she was worse.

She subjected herself to all kinds of cures.

There were all kinds of superstitions attached to her illness. She had grown worse and was no better.

She had a load of memory about the people around her, and she had tried everything that everyone had suggested until somebody suggested that she try one more.

Now I don't know who this woman was, or her name, nor her station in life--she could have been anybody in pain, suffering heartbreak--because these things are (no respectors) of persons. A vast number of people today who search for comfort, for hope, and for peace have not found it. Some are suffering physically some are suffering a bad conscience for 12 years as this woman--



No! Here is desperate strategy--if she might touch the shawl or the tassel of the presence of God--just touch the fringe. Maybe it wouldn't require any concession!

She thrust her body and fingers through the crowd and what a difference immediately--instantly she was cured and the pain ceased and the flow of blood ceased.

There are many today who when they have heard about Jesus come. He is their last resort; He is their last hope which they have. There was no book at that time about Jesus. No magazines or newspapers were available to spread His fame; there was not church organizations for the purpose of missionary work. This woman had heard from somebody--some person--the wonders of Jesus.

The name of Jesus is well known to us. On radio, television newspapers, magazines His book and His name have been spread. Surely all of us can say we have heard the joyful sound of Jesus saves; yet the tragedy is that though we have heard we have not come to give Him a chance with us.

This woman whom Jesus healed talked with herself. In verse 28 this woman began to say within herself. What we say to other people is important but what we say to ourselves is far more important. It is good to learn how to talk in public but it is better to learn how to talk to ourselves.

She might have talked to herself about how she had suffered

What had she heard," somebody might say. "What had this woman heard about Jesus." She heard about His name around the countryside. She had heard how He had entered the house of Peter and raised from the dead his fevered mother-in-law. She had heard how He had come face to face with a leper and cleansed him; how that he had raise the dead son for a widow; how that He had cast out demons; how that He had stilled the storm on the lake. Now this woman who had been ousted and discommunicated probably through no shame of her own but because of the wide-spread misconception and misunderstanding, had tried everything, spent all of her money in so-doing, and had at last heard about Jesus.

The crowds accompanied Jesus everywhere He went. He entered a house and they filled the room and jammed the door.

He stood on the shore and they pressed upon Him and He had to get in a boat. He sought rest on the other side of the lake and they crowded around Him--multitudes followed Him day after day in the street. Here He had a great crowd following Him on His way to Jarisus's home. In that crowd was a discouraged, unknown woman.

But she was in earnest; she was determined to seek help from the helper. When she heard of Jesus, she came in the crowd. This describes her determination! A timid person would have turned away from Jesus for fear of the crowds.



This happens sometimes in the congregation of people--where there are people in a great crowd somebody needs Jesus. They may be here today and because of the crowd they will not seek Him out. They would come to Him like Nicodemus in the night when none were there to may shame. They have not the heart to step out in the aisles before the onlooking audience and go all the way to the Saviour. They have not the courage to step out and come and confess their sins and come from their backsliden ways.

Does anyone wonder why others are being saved and you are not? Marvel not! The explanation is simple--you have never really wanted to be saved.

There has not come an hour when you said, "I need to be saved now if there is any salvation for me." "I will not let thee go," as Jacob said, "until you bless me." And God says if you seek Me, you will find Me.

There are numberless church members who are inefficient because they serve half-heartedly. They are a care to the preacher and a sorrow to Christ. They cause anguish and a lack of interest in the church.

The story of a college student who had gone to a Christian college for three years had been witnessed to and endeavored to be brought to Christ all to no avail. They were having a

revival, but they decided not to speak to him at all. One night he ventured in and he said, "I am interested." When they dealt with him about becoming a Christian he just couldn't make up his mind. He said, "Don't leave me. If I am not saved tonight I fear that I will not saved." They waited with him until 11:00 o'clock and they said that they had to close up. It was pointed out to him that we can be saved when we trust Christ, and when we want to be saved. This continued and they moved to the park and began to talk with him there. One of the students prayed with him and then asked him to pray; but he refused to pray. Then they went back to the chapel and there he said, "I want you to pray for me again." And finally he prayed and asked God to forgive him of his sins. He related the reason why they couldn't lead him to Christ was, in his words, "I thought I wanted to, but really I did not want to bad enough to pray. When I felt the stress and called upon the Lord, He delivered me."

There was another hurdle that this woman had to get over-- in verse 23 we find that this was an interruption of central business. There was a girl at the point of death and perhaps this woman could have said, "Well, I can wait; I will not interrupt Jesus now."

She had never been (so close) to a cure before. Now should she be silent; should she keep it a secret.



find that here was the answer to Satan.

He had not noticed her (verse 30).

Thus He said, "Who touched me?"

The disciples said, "We do not know. There was a crowd

packed around and Jesus looked and tried to check their motives.

The disciples protested; they just suggested that somebody in

the crowd had pushed against Him. Many had made contact, but He

revealed that someone had done far more than just crushed against

Him. He knew the difference between a curious mob and a soul

that needed to express faith in Him.

His question was also a requirement. Verse 33!

Perhaps a better way of stating this would be complete

confession. The woman was quietly slipping away, having gained

healing, when she heard His voice asking the question and she

knew that something more was necessary. She came in front--

trembling; she felt the healing power going through her body

overcoming her weakness. When Jesus healed, He did it perfectly

She knew that according to the law, her touch had defiled

Jesus. The law provided that no person with that particular

form of disease must touch any other person or contact anything;

it was the idea that it defiled. She had dared this action to

touch the robe of Christ; she had made contact with Him. When

the enemies of our Lord on one occasion dealt with something

like this, they said, "This man receiveth sinners." They were

complaining against Jesus for doing this. Their view was that

about how much pain she had had; about the opportunities she

had lost as a wife and a mother. She had suffered repeated

disappointments and she could have told herself that there was

no hope.

Now some people talk about the injustices of God or the unfairness of men. Some admit their mistakes but excuse themselves with an alibi.

Some people develop self pity and they really think that everybody is persecuting them. They somehow reach a point in life where they enjoy bad circumstances. Sometimes sickness is a convenient excuse or escape.

When life is going badly with you, how do you talk with yourself? This woman had heard what Jesus had done for others and she said, "If I could just touch Him--I don't ask Him to come to my house nor put His hand on my head--I wouldn't even ask Him to speak to me, but if I could just touch Him, if I could just touch His clothes." Through the crowd she made her way to Him but made no effort to claim His attention--she didn't even want Him to see her. She did touch His clothes but notice where she touched--the hem of the garment--Matt. 9:20; this was the very lowest part of his robe. This was humility! I know people who are too proud even to get on their knees to talk with Him. But what complete faith this woman had. She refused to believe that all was vain; and amid this crowd she came to Him.



You may call it superstition if you will, but read the next verse and you will find what happened: Her blood was dried up and she felt her body healed of the plague. Now if superstition secured such a benefit for her, then we need more of that kind of superstition. Behind the touch of that hand was a broken and contrite heart, and such God will not despise.

I know that there are many people getting touched and trying to throng Jesus, but they have something else in mind.

We may not be mistaken here--her faith did not heal her; faith saves no one. All the faith of the Christians in this congregation cannot save the sinner. There is nothing in that. But it was the virture that Jesus gave that was able to save. Christ saves those on the condition of faith--by grace are ye saved, through faith. Grace is the water which does away with the thirst.

Can you imagine or suggest any condition that is more universal than faith? We act upon the principle of faith everyday. You have faith in a car; you have faith in an airplane; you have faith in a conductor on a train. Business is largely run on faith. Merchants order their goods a long time before the season opens on faith. A partnership exists by faith. A home stands by faith. You give these things a chance through faith and God takes that principle and says to have faith in God. "He that believeth in the Son hath everlasting

life. All things are possible to him that believes."

I want us to realize that this word gives us not the wrong impression--that it was just a touch on the edge of the garment. This is what the woman had been saying in her heart--that if she might grasp His garment she would be made whole. Her words suggest an action of force that she should touch the border, the hemline, as in the book of Numbers 15:37 and 39. The garment was flung across the shoulders so that one of these tassels hung in front, one on the left and one on the right, and the last fell in the back of the wearer.

In verse 29 we read that immediately her confidence was justified. Twelve years of trouble were now over and the blood condition had changed. She knew this for a fact. She then endeavored to slip away. We see this woman--an outcast and helpless person--seizing her only opportunity and taking advantage of it.

In verse 33 we have the situation turned to the attention of Jesus. We observe His dealing with her; we see His actions. She had been (unseen by the crowd) but He realized that something had happened and He uttered His words about the strange power that had passed from Him. He was (not done) with her--He was on His way to help this girl, but He stopped for a moment and here was the implication as He said, "Who touched me?" We



Peace that would serve possession--sweet peace, the gift of God's love!

Peace is the last chapter. It is found nowhere else. You must obtain pardon before you can possess peace; you must be saved before you have the joy of peace. A common mistake is to wait for the joys to come first before going to Jesus. You must take Jesus Christ first; being justified by faith, then we have peace with Christ. Look at that woman--all that she had was faith; her money had been spent; she did not have beautiful clothes--in fact she would not have gone to church today had she been living in our town.

Don't say, "God is not interested in me." Remember the human touch can draw on the power of God. There are those who feel that there is no real power to be received from Christ. We can sing, "And He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am His own." But for many that is just a song; He is not a real experience. The trouble is that we are not in touch with Him.

This thing happens again and again in our church services. We are one of the crowd; we feel our need. We sing; we listen to the sermon, and then some go away unhelped. We come so close, and yet we do not touch Him.

You can touch Christ. You can approach Him in prayer; you

such contact with sinners defiled Him. He never contracted defilement, but He brought purity. The touch of this woman did not defile Him, but it cleansed her.

Now such confession was always and is always necessary. It is possible for someone in a crowd to make contact with Christ and receive a great spiritual blessing. They try to slip away, but sooner or later it is essential that you bear witness to that fact.

It is important in this case because of Jarius who was standing there--who probably felt impatient at the delay. The value to him, we see, was that he wanted to immediately get on the journey to his home. While this is going on, the news comes to him that the child is dead. Here is the memory of this woman confessing her sins before Jesus. She fell down before Him--that and what it all included we are not told. Perhaps there was scarlet sins involved; perhaps there were skeletons in the closet--we do not know. But here was inspiration; forgiveness of sins belongs to God and confession must be made to Him. Hide the sin in your closet and be condemned; open the door to Christ and be forgiven.

Hear the words of a wise-man: "He who coveth sins shall not prosper, but whosoever confesseth and forsake, he shall have mercy." David concealed his sins and his bones ached like those of an old man. God's hand was heavy upon him while he



kept silent. How different it was when he said that he acknowledged his sins unto God; mine iniquity I have not hid. I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.

Have you wronged your fellow man? To what extent? And to that extent you must make confession to Him. All sin is primarily against God and must be confessed to Him. David exclaimed, "Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned." Joseph located sin as first against God. The Prodigal Son understood the nature of sin as being first against God and then against his father.

The woman did not tell Peter, John, or any other human being the secret sins of her life, but she told Jesus. He had the power to forgive sins. He is the one to whom we go, for there is no other God between God and man than Christ Jesus. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.

Some sins must be confessed to men; sins which are specifically against men. Have you wronged your brother--go and acknowledge your fault; have you violated the law of your country; have you mistreated somebody; have you committed deeds against some person. Then the opportunity is that you speak.

Why belong to a gang of counterfeiters who are made up of plywood instead of the real material? Sin burns in a man's bosom like a coal off fire; he feels that he will die unless he

gets it out.

The guilty mind is without confession. A man was killed in West Virginia; he was last seen to leave a saloon with two brothers who had a shot gun with them. One of these brothers was found at home asleep and the other could not be found. The first brother was tried, convicted, and was given life imprisonment. Seventeen years later, the older brother confessed to an officer in a western state. He said, "I committed the murder and I left. My other brother is serving a sentence in West Virginia." The brother was brought to the courthouse. The two were united. The younger said, "Brother, I have done you a great wrong. You have been in prison, but I have been in hell for seventeen years." *(Atonement of Blood)*

Now I come to the last chapter and verse 34 which I call perfect peace—the Saviour bade her go in peace. She came for the healing of her body; she received that and much more—cleansing of conscience (salvation) of the soul (peace) of heart. God does more for us than we expect when we approach Him in the right spirit.

Spurgeon's mother said, "Oh, Charlie, I have often prayed that you might be saved, but never that you should become a Baptist." He replied with his characteristic humor, "God has answered your prayer, mother, with His unusual bounty and given you more than you asked for."



can come to Him today. He will know that you have touched Him  
and you will know that you have been in contact with Him.

Penniless, friendless, excommunicated, and how difficult  
it was for her to be received of Jesus. But now she could go  
back with society. Would the religious leaders look upon her  
with contempt. Jesus recognized her by saying, "Daughter." I  
take that to mean that (she was adopted) into the family of God.

He charged her to be of good courage, whatever fears she  
might have possessed; whatever uncertainty the future might  
have held He said that there was no reason to fear. He then  
pronounced the word of healing. She was already healed, but in  
His pronouncement He corrected all superstition--that it was  
(not just His garment.) No! It was not just her faith, but it  
was the power of the Saviour.

It is the same formula today that Jesus would say to you,  
"Go in peace." This thing happened so many years ago, you say.  
But it can be repeated in this service this morning. There may  
be a crowd of people, but someone can stretch out the hand of  
faith with some overwhelming need and can be healed.

She only touched Him and she lived. There was no effort  
to hide the woman--this would have been a mechanical procedure.  
Even though her faith was small, she received aid.

What made Him accept her faith?

S. May Feb 7, 1965 A.M.



She did not come to Him first. She came to Jesus last-- as a shipwreck she came. It was enough.

There are skeptics in our day who say, "Well, he doesn't care, etc.", but I will say this much--that Jesus does care about the way some people sin and fight in the church. He does care about those who have a hungry heart. He said, "Blessed are those that hunger" and the heart of this woman was broken and was hungry, and she touched Jesus.

When you want salvation, you shall have it. When you want to be saved--it is based on the one to whom you come. It is not on your worthiness.

A man may say, "Well, (when I am ready) this woman was not ready; she had to come because Jesus was passing and this was an opportunity."

The only response that leads to personal faith is one like this.

We come close to this in baptism; we come close to this in the Lord's supper. But we must touch-- "Who touched me," Jesus said.

Everyone needs to meet Christ. You can go to the church on the corner and not find God; you can move in boldly in the crowd and miss Him with the higher-ups; you can walk around with a Bible in your hand and never touch God; and some people

can pray a whole lot and never reach God. You can do all of these things, but until you come as Jacob saying, "I will not let you go," you are not near enough to touch God. This woman left to become another witness for Christ. She only touched Him. The report was made well. I wonder that day that the news went all over the town in the form of a question--did you touch Him too?

All over Jerusalem that story went and I think the question is going around today--will you touch Him too?