

the sufficiency of grace. He illustrates the peril of the least sin. She demonstrates the power of the least faith.

There is an interesting contrast also between the healing of this woman and the healing of the woman in the (home of Simon) Peter. In that case, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the woman. Here the woman reached out her hand and touched Jesus. There Jesus went to the woman. Here the woman went to Jesus. These two sides of salvation; Jesus seeking the sinner and the sinner seeking Jesus are seen throughout the New Testament.

When Jesus healed this woman, he drew attention to her faith. Daughter, thy faith has made thee whole. That incident shows us the place that faith has in the healing of the soul. He put high value on faith and that faith saves. The needy soul is brought into union with the Saviour and faith is human weakness throwing itself on the divine.

We have here a group of miracles, (Luke 8) some other Mark 4:35-41 of healing in this chapter of Luke's gospel. From the 22nd verse to the close of the chapter you will find the group of four distinct miracles illustrating the many-sided power of Jesus.

First the miracle of calming the storm on the Lake of Galilee. The disciples were and Jesus was asleep. The storm came on the lake and the frightened disciples awoke him saying Master, carest thou not that we perish. And with his majesty he rebuked the wind saying, peace be still. Now here was a

We are all familiar with the story of the woman who for (12 years) had been burdened with an incurable disease. She had (spent) all her money on physicians and medicines and was none the better for it. We must not blame the physician for our ill health because there are diseases that defy the best medical skill.

(Hope) had well nigh died out of the woman's heart. It seems as though she would never again know the luxury of (good health). But one day she (heard) of Jesus whose fame had filled the land and she resolved to go to him. She lacked the courage to go to him openly and state her trouble. But when a great crowd thronged him, she pushed her way through the crowd and reached out a trembling hand, touched the hem of Christ's garment and immediately she felt in her body that she was healed of her plague.

Jesus who (knew) all the time what was going on in the woman's mind stopped and asked, (Who) touched me? (Peter) said, Master the multitude thronged thee and pressed thee and sayest thou who touched me." Jesus said, (Somebody) hath touched me." For I perceive that virtue has gone out of me. When the woman saw that she was (not hid) she came trembling, fell down before him, and declared unto him before all the people for what cause she

had touched him and how that she was immediately healed. And he said unto her, ("Daughter), be of good comfort. Thy faith hath made thee whole."

That is the (only time) Jesus ever used the term daughter in addressing any person. As you read the New Testament you are impressed with the tenderness expressed so often toward those in need. He was always kind and gentle and sought to help. He seems to feel a loving sympathy that he had never felt toward another.

Jesus (was on his way) to restore the health of a little girl. A great crowd was following to see him perform a miracle. Some were merely curious; some were hoping he would fail. Others were declaring he had the power. But in the crowd there was one woman who was different. For 12 years she had suffered with all the possibility of a cancer. They knew nothing of radium and x-ray in that day. Surgery was a very crude thing and it was used to little advantage. And they did not have the knowledge of the pain, drugs that we have today. She had gone to many physicians but she had grown steadily worse. On her face was written pain and weakness and worry. She had spent every cent she had and was at the point of desperation.

I don't know the (woman's name) nor her station in life. She (could have been anybody) in pain, suffering, heartache, is no respector of persons. She represents a vast number of people

today who have searched for comfort, for hope, for peace and have not found it. Some are suffering physically.

When she heard of Jesus, she realized that she had tried everything else (except) Jesus. And that this was her last resort; her last hope. On the other hand may it be said to her glory that the first time she heard of him, she came. She had been six 12 years. Jesus had only been known for a few months. And there were no books at that time about Jesus; no newspapers to spread his fame; no churches organized for the purpose of telling the world about Christ. This woman had only a rumor.

How (different) with so many today since child hood the name of Jesus has been well-known to us. On radio, television, newspaper, magazine. The best scholars have written books about him. Thoughtout the countryside and the cities and the towns we have churches. Surely all of us can sing, "We have heard the joyful sound, Jesus saves." Yet the (tragedy) is that though we have heard we have not come to give him a chance with us.

I Someone has pointed out that an interesting contrast between the touch of this woman and the touch of the man who reached out his hand to the ark of the covenant. You remember the story. The man touched the ark and died. The woman touched Christ's garment hem and lived. He was to touch. His touch was irreverent and presumptuous. (Hers) was the touch of trusting faith. He despaired the sanctity of the law. She magnified

The woman who slipped through the crowd cautiously and touched the hem of his garment and yet was healed. Though her faith was imperfect, she secured a blessing.

And the ruler who had come for help of his little daughter nearly lost his faith when they said unto him the child is dead. Why troublest thou the master. And Jesus happened to overhear it and he said to the father, be not afraid, only believe. His daughter was dead and his faith was dying but Jesus came to the rescue. To the rescue of his faith, to the rescue of his child.

Thus the group of miracles here as a whole show that Jesus wrought some of his mightiest miracles in response to feeblest faith. It is an encouragement to men of weak faith today to go to Jesus with their moral ailments.

When we consider the elements that mar the faith, this woman did not understand how Jesus could heal. She thought she could get the healing without Jesus knowing it, perhaps.

Yet, she was not a theologian. She may have had faulty views concerning the great doctrines of Christianity. She may have been in error concerning the trinity, the atonement, the divinity of Jesus. And yet he accepted and was willing to forgive. It is not our knowledge always that saves us. It is not always our orthodoxy and theology that might save us. It is not our intellectual conceptions of divine truth that might save us. But it is by grace we are saved. Through faith and

miracle showing the power of Jesus over nature.

Second, casting out devils, from the man among the tombs. Here was a man who had lost his individuality and Jesus commanded this unclean spirit and the demon obeyed. And the man was in his right mind again. This miracle shows the power of Christ over devils.

Third, the healing of the woman who had an incurable disease. She had been this way for 12 years, she touched the hem of the garment and health was restored. This shows the power of

The father came to Jesus beseeching him to save the little daughter, his only daughter who lay dying. Jesus was on his way to the house and tidings came that the child was dead. He went in, he took her by the hand and said my dear little maid arise. And at the word of Christ she came back from the realm of death and immediately arose. Now this miracle shows the power of Jesus over death.

As you consider this group of miracles, the stilling of the storm Jesus had power over nature. The casting out of the evil spirit, Jesus had power over the devils. The healing of this woman, the power of Jesus over disease. The raising to life of the daughter, of Jesus, the power over death. These miracles confirms the words, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." He has power over nature, devils, disease,

and death. Has he higher power still? Yes. For it was written the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins. And we would do well to remember that Jesus is the power of God unto salvation. Salvation from sin.

Jesus had power to pardon. More than that he has power to make the soul clean of sin's defilement. The blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sin. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Today and now he has all power over nature, devils, disease, death and power to forgive sin. Transform the sinner into a saint.

Jesus has power to meet every need of man's nature. If you are tormented with a defiled imagination, he can cleanse it.

If you have some evil domination, of some demon, he can set you free. He can release you. As great as were the physical miracles of Jesus, his moral miracles wrought in the souls of men by the power of his grace are still greater. It was marvelous power to calm the storm on the lake of Galilee. It still more marvelous power that brought the (peace of God) into the devil-tormented soul. But we see where sin abounds grace did abound much more exceedingly. We see that there was divine power to turn the water into wine. At the wedding feast. But it was a mightier power that turned Saul the persecutor into Paul the preacher.

Multitudes in every land testify to the saving grace of

God's great gospel. Come and hear all ye that fear God and I will declare what he has done for my soul. He brought me up out of the horrible pit; out of the mirey clay. And set my feet upon a rock and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth.

There is another characteristic that is common in each of these four miracles. And that is the kind of faith. Jesus answered even feeble faith. When he healed the Syrophonician woman. She came in behalf of her daughter. Jesus said oh woman great is thy faith. Be unto thee even as thou wilt. To the centurion who came in behalf of his sick servant, Jesus said I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel. But in this group of miracles we have the feeblest faith of man calling on the mightest power of God.

When the storm swept over the disciples, they were filled with fear. And he said to Jesus, do you not care whether or not we perish. That was a sort of a prayer. But Jesus responded to it. He stilled the storm and he said why are ye fearful oh ye of little faith. And yet that mighty miracle was wrought in answer to that feeble faith.

The faith of the man among the tombs was feebler still. For all that he could do was throw himself down in the presence of Jesus. With the evil spirit in him. And he could not even pray. And yet Jesus released him.

that brings a man to Christ? Is it fear? Is it love? What is that would draw him to Jesus?

Jesus (honored) her faith. I want you to notice that he put the emphasis and the crown upon faith. He does not say (my power) but (thy) faith hath made thee whole. There were defects in this woman's faith. But Christ permits no fault shame on the part of the patient to rob their faith or his power.

Because there had been no physical contact with Christ, there had been (believing trust) he turns to her and he says, no it was not chance nearness to my body in the crowd that I wrought the cure. It was not the touch of my garment's hem. But thy faith hath made thee whole. The forefront, the incident teaches us that faith is reasonable and intelligent. His healing was no magical transaction. Neither by chance nor by charm. That disease was removed and soul was saved. It was simply a strong persuaviveness of faith. In the Saviour.

It (proves) the strength of her faith. Most likely never seen him before. She'd only heard about him. She had never beheld one of his miracles. She was wasted by disease. She had made this journey. And she had said, if I could just touch him. It was when she had heard the things concerning Jesus that she came to him. What these were we can suppose. His fame as a healer of diseases was not spread through all Syria. For this woman it was enough. She was filled with a belief that he

that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

No doubt this woman's faith was mixed with superstition. She thought there was healing in the (border of blue that fringed the garment of Jesus) And was an emblem of the priesthood. She attached virtue to that blue fringe. There was superstition mingled with religion just as chaff with wheat. There are men and women who attach religious value to ceremonies and rites. They think there is saving virtue in an ordinance. And they think there is some peculiar saving power in just the carrying around of a crucifix. Ritualism is an act of superstition. Special religious value is attributed to ecclesiastical machinery And ordinances. But men and women are saved with the salvation of God through faith. As I see it, all religious rites are but the hem of Christ's garment. For this woman said if I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. For she said, Matthew points out, "she said within herself," What we think of other people is important; but what we say to ourselves is far more important. It is good to learn how to speak in public but it is far better to learn how to talk to ourselves. She might have talked to herself about how she had suffered. She had lost her opportunity as a wife, as a mother. She had suffered repeated disappointments so easy to talk to herself and say there is no hope. That she could have done better. There are some people talked about the injustices of God or the unfairness of men. Some admit their

mistakes but excuse themselves with alibies. And they develop a selfpity.

When life is going badly with you, how do you talk to yourself? This woman had heard what Jesus had done for others. And she believed. She said, if I could just touch him, I would ask him to come to my house. I won't ask him to put his hands on my head or to speak to me. If I could just touch him. And where should I touch him? I will touch him just on the hem of the garment. Thought the crowd she made her way but she made no effort to claim his attention. Or even to let him see her. She did touch his clothes but notice where she touched. The hem of his garment. (Matt. 9:28) The lowest part. What a lovely humility we see here. Now there are people who are too proud even to get on their knees to talk to Christ. But here we see this feeble faith may be complete faith.

No one in the crowd even noticed her. That is no one but Jesus. He felt the power go out of him. He knew that somebody faith had tied unto his strength. Who touched me? The disciples replied. Thou seeest the multitudes, we cannot tell. Somebody hath touched me. And it has been splendidly pointed out that this woman began as nobody but by touching Jesus, she became somebody.

The bread and wine of the Lord's table have no value themselves. They are but the garment hem and it is thourhg faith

that we look through these and remember Christ. Whittier interprets it this way. The healing of his seamless dress is by our beds of pain. We touch him in life's throng and press and ~~we see the whole again.~~

Motive of Religion

The women's faith was selfish. Her sole aim in coming to Jesus was to be healed of her disease. Perhaps she did not come completely for the truth and the teachings of Jesus. She did not come for religion. She was not drawn to Jesus by love. But she came to him out of a (desperate) physical need. She would have taken the gift and gone home without thanking the giver. If Jesus had not interfered and asked who touched me.

Men and women (sometimes doubt) their acquaintances with God because their lives are not keyed to a high standrad of motives and purpose. They are conscious of mixed motives in their religious life and service. They seekd Jesus as the sailor seeks the harbor to be the shelter from the storm. There is a streak of selfishness in our best religious act.

In our trouble, we turn to God for relief. Because we cannot help ourselves. If Jesus had passed this woman's door 12 years before when she was in perfect health, she might not have even noticed him. Now that she is in trouble, there is no one else to turn to.

The motives that lead men and women to begin the Christian life are manifold. And this we ought to emphasize. What is it

school are as much in school as those who are most advanced.
A little grain of faith, a little desire is all that is suffi-
cient to begin with. The faith, small as a grain of mustard
seed, might lead to the rich results.

When you think of the building of a suspension bridge across
the Niagra river, they first got a string across the river by
means of a kite. To this kite string was attached a light wire.
And to this wire a larger, a stronger strand. And to this a
still larger and a stronger strand. Until at last, great cables
bands of iron bridged the chasm. The soul first sent up a
feeble whisper for mercy, bowed its heart. And said God be
merciful to me a sinner. We pray for a closer walk with God. We
pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, we pray to be made par-
takers of divine nature. We pray to be filled. And our first
prayer perhaps was (like an infant) crying in the night. An infant
crying for the light and with no language but a cry.

My friend, do not stay away from Jesus. And outside the
kingdom because your faith seems to be weak. Your knowledge dim
or your purpose unstable. Jesus will accept you must as you
are. With an ignorant faith he will accept you. With a doubting
faith he will accept you. Bring your doubts as well as your
faith. (The prayer) Lord I believe help my unbelief will bring
all the resources of heaven to your side. Even as it did to
the helpless man at the foot of the mountain. Jesus was very

was able to heal even her. She never seems to have doubted for
a moment. Her fight to take the cure if she could get it.

The old city of Thebes there on the Nile had a hundred gates.
There were golden gates, iron gates, bronze gates. There were
gates for kings to enter, gates for warriors, gates for noble
men, gates for priests, gates for citizens, gates for slaves.
It made little difference what gate she went in. So that ye got
in. He who entered in by the low-mean gate for slaves was in the
city and shared its protection as truly as the man who rode in a
splendid chariot through the golden gate that was reserved for
royalty.

The city of God has many gates. John envisions on 12 gates
opening out toward Rome stood an angel of welcome. You may enter
through one of the gates on the south. You may enter through a
gate of faith or a gate of love. You may enter in through some
denominational gate. If you cannot come by the gate of the pure
in heart, you cannot enter the gate of the poor in spirit. If
you cannot come in by the gate of the meek you can enter by the
gate of those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. A great
fear may drive you. A tender love may draw you. A deep grief
may move you. A glad hope may inspire you. The desire for
purity may move you. A sense of helplessness may turn you to
the same.

Never mind what it is that causes you to turn and to come

toward heaven. The important thing is whether it is love or fear or hell or heaven. Him that cometh, Jesus will in no wise reject. He stands there saying (I am) the door. By me if any man enter in he shall be saved.

There is no fixed stereotyped way of coming into the kingdom of God. There is no hard fixed formula. This woman came because she was so helpless and miserable. The prodigal son came because he was hungry and homeless. The leper came because he was lonely and sick. You never mind the motive, only see to it that you come to Christ. You might come boldly as the Syrophonecian woman. You might creep in timidly as did this woman. You might meet him at a noonday like the woman by the well at Samaria. You might go to him undercover at night as Nicodemus. You might climb a tree to see him as Zaacheus. You might throw yourself on the ground like the maniac. You might come as a wedding guest because you are invited. You might come uninvited. You might come in the prime of the young manhood as Andrew or come in the dying hour as the thief on the cross. There is no way that I could set and say to you now this is the beginning of Christian life. But God is interested in drawing men into the kingdom. And if you interviewed thousands of Christian people tomorrow, and asked them what was it that led you to enter on the Christian life. Everyone would tell you that it was a different path. Men find their way into the kingdom of

God by various ways.

The question is not when you began the Christian life. The question is not where you began. Or how. But the question is have you begun. Are you living that life today? Are you willing to begin here and now?

The latch string of heaven is always out. So that whoever will may come. If you cannot make a prayer of your own use one that someone else has made. "God be merciful to me a sinner." Lord save me, I perish.

If you cannot pray for yourself, ask someone to pray for you. Will you please knock for me said the little girl who could not reach the door knocker on her door. It was too high for her. The woman of faith was ignorant of a lot of things. She may have been timid. But it was faith and it secured the blessing. She came as she was. She came to Jesus and he received her just as she was and sent her home with the double blessing of body and health of soul.

Jesus receives us just as we are. He does not withhold his mercies because of our ignorance. He does not demand that our faith shall be as (Abraham) or (Paul) before he will receive us. There is a big gospel truth in the old hymn. All the fitness you require is to feel your need of him. My brother, my sister, do not rule yourself out of the kingdom because your knowledge is defective, your faith is weak. Those in the lowest grade of the

But there are so many people today who are waiting for a convenient season. But this woman made it convenient. Here was Jesus on his way on a mission. It was possibly the worst (time) in the world and the worst (place) to try to get help. But it was this woman who made the opportunity. She made the best of it and she was saved.

There are some who are (waiting) for some clear light. There are some who are waiting for some special agency. But this woman's case was peculiar. She was Jewish law unclean. She could not even go in the synagogue. She could not stand up before the healer in a public audience and tell her case and get his hands laid upon her as many did.

But here the Saviour goes into action and he says somebody touched me. And she knew (instantly) that she was healed. She felt that moment. She perceived it. She believed it. And his power flowed into her life. And with fear and trembling she came and fell down before him and made a confession before all the people.

Had she been allowed to slip away without the public notice she would have lost two things. First, the honor of confessing her faith. And second, of having her cure confirmed. Thy faith hath saved thee. To confess with the mouth is an essential part of the salvation which comes by believing with the heart. With the heart man believeth unto righteousness. With the mouth

sensitive to his soul's cry. And he says ask and it shall be given unto you. Are you here in a world of a temptation of sin, lost your way. You would like to find your path and would lead you to heaven.

Give you the end of a golden string. Only wind it in a ball, it will lead you in at heaven's gate. Built in Jerusalem's wall."

1.31 A great multitude thronged Jesus that day. Only one woman touched him. They who thronged him but she who touched him received the blessing. The touch brought to her the health of God's salvation. Do you know what it is to come into close personal touch with Jesus?

The woman declared for what cause she touched him. Is there not a cause of a reason that (you) need to go to Jesus for help today? Is there not some plague of sin feeding at your life that will ruin it? That is having mastery over you. Have you no cause to go to God. The woman knew she was in the grip of a disease. God can cleanse and cure such a foul, cruel, damnable thing that only God dare to tackle it. It ruins, it destroys the most beautiful human character. When this woman heard of Jesus she went to Jesus. She might have heard of him all her days but no benefit would have come unto her if she had not gone to him personally and sought his healing virtue. Too many today are content with merely hearing about Jesus. This listening to

the gospel and never acting on it is the ruination of the multitudes. There are men and women who listen to the gospel sermons week after week who seemingly think this is all that is needed. They are hearers but not doers. They know the Christian way but never rise up to walk in it. There is no benefit to the sick man who hears of a physician and never makes application to him.

v. 33.

When this woman was healed she openly acknowledged her healer. She declared before all the people. For what cause she had touched him. And how she was immediately healed. The public confession as a blessing to herself and benefit to others. It brought her into a more intimate relationship to Jesus and all her life afterwards, she remembered what Jesus said to her. She never tired of telling the neighbors that he said to her daughter, just as a father would call to his little girl. And she remembered that he said daughter be of good comfort. Go in peace. That was a great day of experience as if you should come to Christ today, you would go from this place saying oh happy day, that fixed my choice on thee my Saviour and my God.

All that this woman possessed was some faith. All of her money had been spent. And she was not in some beautiful church and had she been ashamed of her clothes, she would have not gone to church. But she was out on the street on this weekday. And there was no pride in conference. And to the disciples this was

an unheard of thing. Preposterous that God should be concerned about one person. But does he not clothe the grass of the field provide for the birds of the air, and he calls his own sheep by name. In John 10:3.

Don't say God is not interested in me. Remember that the human touch can draw on the power of God. Jesus looked around and out to see her. There are those who feel that there is no power to be received from Christ. We sing that 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; it is not a real experience. The trouble is we are not in touch with him. Everything happens again and again and a church service. We are one of the crowd; we feel our need; we sing, we listen to the sermon. And somehow we go away unhelped. But we can come close to him. Have you touched Christ? First, you approach him. Through the means of prayer. Second, you believe he hears your prayer. And third, you accept his answer. And you do what he says to do. That sounds simple.

But that's the way it will be. You will feel the power going in your life and you may not speak audibly as he did to this woman but he will speak to your heart and your conscience and you will know what he wants you to do. And you will know what you should do. It is an astonishing thing that many pressed him that day but only one touched him.

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