

Jesus Heals

Be a woman who seeks Him for answers

By Mary L. Dubler DVM, MS

June 2005

Have you heard about Jesus? The most likely answer is yes. After you heard, how have you responded?

In the book of Mark we are treated to the story of the woman who had struggled with a hemorrhage for 12 long years. She is another woman whose name is not revealed, however we learn how she responded when *she* heard about Jesus. Her story is in Mark 5:25-34:

A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse--after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will get well." Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" And His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

Can you imagine? For 12 years this woman had a hemorrhage that could not be cured by anyone. Considering the length of time she had this hemorrhage, it is most likely that she had what today in mixed company would be called a "female problem." She spent all her money going from physician to physician and no one was able to stop the bleeding. In fact, they only made her worse.

Because of her affliction she had suffered much, not only physically but emotionally as well. In fact, the emotional hurt may have been even greater than the physical effects. Realize that according to the law she was unclean. Here's what the law says in Leviticus 15:25-28:

Now if a woman has a discharge of her blood many days, not at the period of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond that period, all the days of her impure discharge she shall continue as though in her menstrual impurity; she is unclean. Any bed on which she lies all the days of her discharge shall be to her like her bed at menstruation; and every thing on which she sits shall be unclean, like her uncleanness at that time. Likewise, whoever touches them shall be unclean and shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

Any bed she lies on and any chair she sits on is unclean. Any person she touches is unclean. She hugs her children and they are unclean. She hold hands with her husband

and he is unclean. For 12 long years she lives with the shame of being unclean and making anything and anyone she touches unclean. Probably people avoided touching her because they wouldn't want to go through the cleansing process. Her husband may have moved to a different house, taking their children away, telling her that only when she is clean can they be back together. Her husband may have even divorced her. Of course, the scripture doesn't tell us how her family treated her, but we can imagine that she was isolated, lonely, and very discouraged.

But after 12 years of suffering she heard about Jesus. What had she heard?

- That He taught with authority and taught in parables. [Mark 1:21-22; 4:26-34]
- That He cast out demons and unclean spirits. [Mark 1:23-34]
- That He healed many diseases, including leprosy which is a chronic disfiguring, debilitating disease. Lepers also were unclean people, yet Jesus was willing to touch them and they were cleansed and healed. [Mark 1:40-45]
- That He forgave sins. [Mark 2:1-12]

When the woman with the hemorrhage heard about the great things Jesus was doing, she believed in His power. I think she even went one step further and believed that He was the Son of God. She had already put her faith and hope in men and they had let her down. To go to another man was not enough, even if he were a great prophet. But she could entrust her problem to the Son of God.

The amazing thing is that she did not have to see the miracles with her own eyes to believe. In the gospel of John we see that Jesus conveys a blessing to those whose belief was not dependent upon being an eye-witness to His power. He said to Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." John 20:29 (emphasis added)

Our walk with Jesus is supposed to be based upon faith and not sight. Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:6-7 (emphasis added)

The woman who needed healing heard and believed—and then she sought Him out. She put action to her faith.

Let's look again at what she did.

. . . after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will get well." Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Her faith was so strong that she believed the only thing she had to do was to touch the fringe of Jesus' garment and she would be made well. The fringe of a garment was low

between the calf and ankles, so very likely she was crouching or even crawling to touch it. She approached Jesus in an attitude of courageous humility, but probably she was also trying to do this so she wouldn't be noticed. She didn't want to call attention to herself, and she didn't want to be ridiculed by the crowd. She also didn't want to *ask* Jesus for a cure as so many others had because this was a delicate and embarrassing subject.

By faith the woman also knew that touching Jesus would not make Him unclean and in need of purification. He was different than everyone else she had touched over the previous twelve years. Jesus, Who overcomes sin and death, also overcomes all uncleanness. He touches the unclean and the unclean becomes clean instead of the expected opposite. The woman knew that He touched lepers and did not become unclean, so she could touch Him without any fear of making Him unclean.

Instantly after the woman touched Jesus' garment, she felt in her body that she had been healed. Just as instantly Jesus felt the power go forth from Him, and He sought to find who had touched Him. Just as sin is not allowed to reside in secret, acts of faith are to be revealed as well. Jesus wants her to give public testimony to what has happened so that others may also believe. She realizes He knows what has happened, and so she approaches Jesus in fear and trembling and tells Him the whole story.

Jesus, desiring to put her at ease, addresses her as "Daughter." She is accepted. She is part of His family. She is no longer unclean. Jesus does not want to rebuke or chastise her; He wants to encourage her in her faith and confirm the healing. He tells her, "**your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction**".

What joy this woman must have felt after Jesus said these words! He acknowledged her faith, healed her body, and brought peace to her life. She can now go home and sit wherever she wanted, for the chair would remain clean. She can now go home and hug and play with her children or grandchildren, for they would remain clean. She can go to the temple, make new friends, and care for her loved ones, and she can enjoy it all because she is clean. It's as if she has been given a new life.

What we can glean from this account of the woman healed of the hemorrhage is:

- She realized that man's efforts were not capable of making her well.
- She heard about Jesus. Not only did she hear, but she believed what she heard. She didn't have to see it for herself.
- She believed in her heart that only the Son of God could help her, so she sought Jesus out.
- She acted on her faith. She reached out and touched Jesus. She expected to be healed—and she was.
- She publicly testified about the miraculous things Jesus had done for her.
- Because of her faith she was healed.

Have you heard about the great things Jesus has done? Respond to what you have heard in the same fashion as the woman healed of a hemorrhage. Acknowledge that you cannot look to man for the answers to your problems. You must look to Jesus. Believe in faith

that Jesus has the power to help you. Act out your faith and go to Jesus and touch Him. Expect that He will answer your petitions, and be ready to give public testimony about those answers.

© 2005 Mary L. Dubler. All rights reserved.

All scripture references from the New American Standard, Updated Version. Used with permission.

Questions for you to ponder:

1. This teaching does not imply that we should not go to a doctor for medical help; God has given men and women intelligence and skill in this area and He often uses their hands as the instrument of His healing. What we must not do, however, is to elevate these people to a position that only God can hold. He is the ultimate source of healing and only He has the answers to all problems. His Holy Spirit will give wisdom as we humbly seek Him, and He will reveal answers to us. Have you been looking to man rather than to Jesus for an answer to a problem that you have? Describe the problem and prayerfully seek Him for the answer.

2. Do you feel “unclean” and unable to approach Jesus? In what way? Why could Jesus come close to, and even touch, the unclean and not become unclean Himself?

3. What does it mean to “walk by faith?” What practical things can you do to increase and develop your faith?

4. Write out a testimony describing an answer to prayer or some other great thing Jesus has done for you. Be ready to give this publicly—tell a friend, testify at church—the Holy Spirit will prompt you!