

God Cares for the Sick

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Mark 5:25-34

This is the story of the woman who touches Jesus' garment and is healed. Jesus often went and healed people. Sometimes he healed them by their invitation. Sometimes, he just had compassion on them, and sometimes he responded to their faith in Him. Jesus' response to this woman reveals His compassion for people who struggle with illness.

²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.

²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.

²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,

²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."

²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹ "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.

³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." (Mk. 5:25-34 NIVO)

Jesus cares on a busy day.

This story occurs as an intersection of a busy day of ministry for Jesus. He is on his way to the house of Jairus, one of the synagogue rulers because the ruler's daughter is severely ill. Jesus and a crowd of people, along with the paparazzi, are heading down the narrow streets making their way to Jairus' house. They are walking, pressed together -- body to body in a crowd. Because of the healings Jesus has done, people have come out from everywhere to see what is happening. The intensity is dialed up because this is not just some poor soul, whom the community takes little interest in. This is like the mayor's child. The synagogue official runs the show.

So here they are making their way down the noisy street and pressed bodies, when all of a sudden Jesus stops. He asks "Who touched me?" He starts looking around, and keeps asking, "Who touched me." All of those around him ask, "What do you mean, who touched you?" "Everyone is touching you?"

Jesus responds out of the sensitive nature He has as God's divine Son. No. Someone touched him for healing. He felt power leave his body.

While he is looking around, a woman comes and falls at his feet. She confesses, "I did it, Master." She was shaking in fear and trembling. It is me. I touched you.

A woman who had a great need for God's help.

This woman had a physical illness which found no healing. She had bleeding that would not stop. She had been to the physicians of her day. She had spent her money. There was no insurance. No health provision. They didn't have our modern medicine, or surgery to correct her female problem. She was destitute and broke.

When she heard Jesus was in town, and when she had heard the stories of healings Jesus was performing, she determined to go and see if she could at least touch him. She thought in herself, that if she could just touch his garment, she would be healed. So she pressed up against the crowd. She had to work at it to get between all of the people who were with Jesus. She found her opening and reached her hand through. There, she touched him.

Immediately she could feel the change in her body. It was a hot burning sensation in her. But it was quick and when it passed, she felt suddenly much better. She knew it. She was healed. God didn't remove her problem. God restored her body to full health.

A faith that saved her.

When Jesus finally turns to her, he tells her that her faith has made her well. The text actually says, "Your faith has saved you." The meaning is that her faith made her well. However, in a real way, it saved her. We are not talking about salvation, here. Yet, consider how her life was going. She had spent all of her money on cures which could not help. She had an issue of blood. This made her unclean with no hope of ever becoming ritually pure.

This woman was on rock bottom. She had no hope unless God helped her. She had prayed day after day, year after year, but it was as if God would not hear her. She had cried so many tears. Unclean for her husband. Unclean from the temple. There are many places an unclean woman can not go. More than that, the way the Jews viewed sin in her day, made her a sinner. God was punishing her. That is why he wouldn't hear her prayers. But punishing her for what? What had she done. Was it even her? Maybe it was something her parents did? She didn't know. All she knew is that she was stuck in her sick condition with nowhere to go.

That is until Jesus came along. You see, it really is true. Her faith saved her.

There are many people who are living with some sick condition which will not go away. They have suffered long. They have cried tears of anguish and pain. They have prayed for God to heal them, but God has not answered.

It is hard to be in ill-health. It is especially hard if you are in ill-health for a long duration. A long term illness wears you down. It wears you down physically. It wears you down emotionally. It wears you down in your heart.

Yet, remember, there is a God in heaven.

Remember Daniel's response to the king when he asked him to interpret his dream. The king refused to tell Daniel the dream. He just wanted Daniel to give him an answer. Daniel's response, I cannot answer your dream, but there is a God in heaven. Daniel was

telling the king, he could not do the impossible. But, there is a God in heaven who can do the impossible.

I would tell you the same. I cannot tell you if you will be healed of your illness. However, I can tell you, there is a God in heaven. If you have come today wanting God to do a miracle for you, I can tell you, there is a God in heaven. That God says, nothing is impossible.

When God walked the earth in His Son, Jesus, God brought healing to the sick. The word got out to a woman who was 12 years into her plight that there was a man in town in whom God was working miracles. His name is Jesus.

Jesus, God Saves

The God in heaven came to earth in His Son, Jesus. His name, Jesus, we get from the Greek. It is the Greek version of the Aramaic name for Joshua – Yeshua. Yeshua, Joshua, Jesus, means God is the Savior. God has come to bring salvation in Jesus.

Jesus brought salvation by dying on the cross to cover our sin and free us from our guilt before Holy God. Yet, Jesus also is God's salvation by bringing into our world, the presence of the kingdom of God.

Jesus, who is *God Saves*, reveals to us the reality of the kingdom of God. He makes known what it will be like to be fully in the kingdom of God. When God removes all sin, and the devil, and all that has come into the world because of sin, then we will live in the world that has become fully saved. This is the prophetic fulfillment

of the kingdom of God when “the mountains will drip with sweet wine (Joel 3:18).” It will also be when “the wolf will live with the lamb (Isa. 11:6).” In addition to nature, the coming kingdom of the Messiah will be a restoration of health. Sin brought destruction and death. But Christ brings fullness of health. Thus is the meaning of the prophecy “The lame will leap like a deer (Isa. 35:6).”

Jesus' healing miracles were witnesses of the kingdom of God come on earth. He healed people by restoring them completely to full health which reverses the plight of sin in the world. When Jesus heals you, you are saved from many problems.

God cares for us when we are sick. Even if we have been stuck in an illness for a long time, God still loves us and cares for us.

If you are stuck in sickness do not give up hope. I cannot tell you if God will rescue you. God still answers prayer. God still gives healings. He still does miracles. I cannot tell you if God will heal you and restore you fully to health. But I can tell you that in Jesus' name, God saves.

A faith that reaches to touch

You must believe. You must have faith. You will not approach God if you don't believe in Him. Remember Psalm 23:3: He restores my soul.

Are you down today and need God to restore your soul.

This woman was down. She was down, but she heard about Jesus. When she heard about Jesus, she said in her heart, “If I could just

touch his clothes, I will be healed.” Then she did the bold thing. She went to him and pushed her way into the crowd. Then, when she could, she reached out and touched him.

Did you notice that Jesus never gave permission for her to be healed? The woman never asked him. She didn’t call out to him and ask to be healed. In a real sense, she just reached out and **took it**. She acted in faith, and God allowed the power to flow. It was after she was healed that Jesus turned around and realized that someone had a faith healing, for power had poured out of his body and he felt it.

Jesus isn’t here in his body now. **But Jesus is here**. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus here. He is here in every believer who is saved. He is here wherever believers gather. He is here where believers worship. He is here whenever believers pray.

Jesus is here. He cares for you. Will you reach out in faith and touch him?

The Lord hears

How many years did the woman pray to God and never receive and answer? How many tears fell on her face and rolled down her cheeks without any answer to her prayers? Do you wonder if she ever felt that God didn’t hear her prayers?

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (Ps. 34:17-18 NIVO)

When you cry out to God, God hears you. Believe in God. Believe in his Son, Jesus. Believe that he cares for you when you are sick, or when trouble comes. God cares. God hears.

What is even more important than being healed, is being saved. If God saves your body, you want to make sure He saves your soul. The body will die someday. You will want the ultimate healing. Believe in Jesus as the Savior and God will save you.