

Advent Series. *Women Rise Up* Chapter 9, Heal: the hemorrhaging women

Mark 5: 24b-34 read

Show Youtube video – 4 minutes

“If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed.”

Quietly rejoicing that she had been healed at last and in such a miraculous way, the woman must have thought of slipping away. But Jesus knew what had happened, and asked, “Who touched me?” Trembling with fear, the woman fell at His feet and confessed. He didn’t scold her. He commended her way, calling her “ Daughter” - a term He did not use directly with any other women in the Gospels. Jesus gave the women dignity and raised her status in front of the crowd; now she could hold her head high and be freed of her embarrassing condition. Jesus had healed her fully---physically, socially, and spiritually. Only Jesus can offer such profound healing.

When you hear Jesus call “Come to me”, you are hearing a call from your creator, the heavenly Physician who can truly heal you. It would be wise to heed His voice and to respond to His call, for only your hope is found in Him. Many people ignore Him or do not realize who He really is. Others may come into contact with things associated with Him, like church or Christian activities. But like the crowd that jostled Jesus, their contact with Jesus may be merely accidental.

Like the woman, we need to deliberately reach out and touch Jesus. We need to respond intentionally: no one comes to Jesus carelessly. Only then will we find the true Healer and be healed.

Breakout rooms: We do not record this. We will not share out when we come back together. This is just your time. 15 minutes/ 4 in a group

Consider this:

- Is there an area of your life that needs a healing touch from Jesus, or needs to be saved by His redeeming hands?
- Are you holding on to something so tightly that it prevents you from holding on to Jesus, the true Treasure of life?
- Or, were you in this position at some point in your life and want to share? “

Excerpted from *Finding Rest for the Soul* by Robert Solomon

Let’s pray....

Lord, we reach out to you. Knowing that you are always with us, listening, guiding and holding on to us, bringing a peace that fulfills us, keeps us warm, and gives us the courage to touch you. Amen

The past year, the pandemic year, the one thing that was so difficult for me was the lack of hugs. That touch. Think of the woman in our story. I imagine her life as one without hugs from family, friends, and children. As devoid of marital rights with its duties and privileges, as full of toil because of the need to constantly wash everything, and as expensive because of the financial implications of a chronic illness. She is probably without income. Because she is unemployable. In a culture dominated by the shame and/or honor motif, the woman experiences embarrassment and exclusion.

She was “Marginalized”

- What does that mean?
- Have you ever been “Marginalized” in a community sense?
- What are diseases, conditions, or disorders that today cause people to be marginalized in our society.

Let’s just talk about it together. Popcorn your answers. Get the discussion going.

John Wesley said “Do All the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

Jesus sees us. We are not faceless to Jesus. He recognizes us. He calls us by name. Not all women know that.

Breakout group: depends on time

How do you see Mark 5: 24b -34 relating to our churches five core values of Service, Worship, Love, Discipleship, and The World. Why is this story important? Just chat about it, pull out some important thoughts. Take some notes to think about it later.

Never overlook, stereotype, or generalize the poor, marginalized and needy.

Matthew 26: 11 says...For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.

Jesus restores this woman back into her community to worship God, love God, in the fellowship of friends. Today people are being restored into their local churches and communities by the power of the Gospel all over the world for the Glory of God. As a Church when we say we value worship, service, love, discipleship and our world the end result of these values in action is the restoration of people to God, His church and (for many) their community. Faith in Christ is the community for wholeness, well being, prosperity, security, friendship, and salvation in God's Kingdom of shalom/peace.

"Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your disease. AMEN.