

Trusting Jesus with our Issue

4.8.18

Message 23

Mark Series

Mark 5:25–34 (NIV)

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1. Does the Bible Promise us a stress-free life?

A. The answer is very clearly, no.

1. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble, but I have overcome the world."

John 16:33 (NIV)

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

2. Until Jesus returns, we will witness trouble:

- a. There will continue to be war.
- b. There will be death.
- c. There will be bad doctor's reports.
- d. There will be disasters.

3. All of these are the result of sin.

- a. Because of sin, we will have issues and problems.
- b. To deny this is not faith, but ignorance.

B. Where is the good news (Gospel) in this?

1. The Good News is that Jesus has overcome our problems.

- a. The Good News is that Jesus is not made powerless by our issues.
- b. The Good News is that Jesus' ministry is a constant example of God's power over those things that we are powerless against.

2. We can have peace in the midst of trouble because Jesus is bigger than our issues.

- a. Here in Mark we find a woman who is in trouble.
- b. Her sickness prevented her from having a normal life.
- c. She had tried all the ways she knew to find help and each one left her disappointed.
- d. In a great act of faith and desperation, she searches for Jesus and finds the healing she had been seeking.

C. All of us this morning are facing some sort of issue or problem.

- 1. What we want to do today is to see how this woman received healing and provision,
- 2. And discover how we can receive the same in our own lives.

2. What was life like for this woman?

A. For 12 years she had suffered from menstrual bleeding.

1. She could not have a normal life in those days.
2. This bleeding kept her from:
 - a. worshipping at the temple,
 - b. prevented her from having intimacy with her husband,
 - c. and contact with the outside world.

B. Doctors couldn't help this woman either.

1. We don't know what the treatment looked like or what it involved.
2. But we know it was costly.
 - a. It cost her financially.
 - b. It cost her emotionally (hurt her pride).
 - c. It cost her physically.

C. Jesus was her last hope.

1. This isn't an indictment of her.
 - a. When her issue started, Jesus hadn't started his ministry yet.
 - b. Jesus would have been only about 18 years old yet.
 - c. She couldn't have turned to Jesus when the bleeding first started.
2. But now her time had arrived to receive her healing.
 - a. She knew Jesus was coming that way.
 - b. And she believed that if she could merely get close to Him, she would be made whole.

3. There were major obstacles that prevented her from getting to Jesus.

A. Anytime a miracle is needed, there are always obstacles.

1. The very fact that you are needing a miracle is evidence that you have a problem.
2. We pray for miracle because we have problems.
3. When we pray for a miracle, we will encounter obstacles.
4. We encounter obstacles for three reasons:
 1. The Enemy of our souls don't want us to win.
 2. The Enemy of our souls don't want God to receive glory.
 2. The laws of fallen nature are against miracles.
5. So what were the obstacles this woman faced as she pursued Jesus and the miracle she was believing for?

B. The first obstacle was that she was a woman. (Cultural)

1. In Middle-Eastern culture, women do not approach men.
 - a. This is true even today.
 - b. A man walks in front and separate of his wife.
2. In Jesus' day, women had little to no value.
 - a. Let me share a section from the Hebrew writings of Ben Sirach.
 - b. Sirach was a rabbi 200 years before Jesus and his writings had a very strong influence in Jesus' day.
 - c. Notice the perception men were taught to have towards women.

⁹ A daughter is a secret anxiety to her father,
and worry over her robs him of sleep;
when she is young, for fear she may not marry,
or if married, for fear she may be disliked;

10 while a virgin, for fear she may be seduced
and become pregnant in her father's house;
or having a husband, for fear she may go astray,
or, though married, for fear she may be barren.

11 Keep strict watch over a headstrong daughter,
or she may make you a laughingstock to your enemies,
a byword in the city and the assembly of the people,
and put you to shame in public gatherings.
See that there is no lattice in her room,
no spot that overlooks the approaches to the house.

12 Do not let her parade her beauty before any man,
or spend her time among married women;

13 for from garments comes the moth,
and from a woman comes woman's wickedness.

14 **Better is the wickedness of a man than a woman who does
good;
it is woman who brings shame and disgrace.**¹

3. At the temple, women had to stay in the court of women, separate from the Jewish men and away from the priests, the sacred symbols, and worship.

a. There was a complete line of separation between men and women.

b. Women had to know their place.

4. She knows this.

a. After she is healed, she shows great fear and then confesses what she had done.

b. Perhaps she feared being beaten for approaching a Rabbi in public and bringing him disgrace.

c. She had reason to fear a group of men who had religious, legal, and cultural rights to keep women in their "place".

¹ [The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), Sir 42:9–14.

5. Our culture can be an obstacle that keeps us from pursuing Jesus and all His benefits.

a. Some may call you weak for believing in a loving, all-powerful deity.

b. Maybe you grew up to take pride in your ability to make things happen, without outside help.

c. There are many ways that culture becomes an obstacle that tries to prevent you from receiving from Jesus.

d. But you must reach a point where your pursuit of Jesus is not bound by cultural pressures and norms.

e. The trajectory of popular culture is downward, not upward.

f. A work of the Holy Spirit is to point you in the right direction.

B. The second obstacle was her uncleanness. (religious)

1. Blood made someone or something unclean.

a. Uncleanness had to be purified before someone could worship God or associate with other people.

b. Because the flow of her bleeding never stopped, she was never clean.

2. It was unlawful to make someone else unclean.

a. Uncleanness was transmittable from unclean person to a clean person.

b. By touching Jesus, the woman would make Jesus unclean and that would have been unacceptable.

c. There were reasons for this, and this Law was God's idea.

3. But the religious zeal of the people took God's law too far.

a. It became a law to itself.

b. And the rules that surrounded the Law kept needy people from receiving from God.

4. Many of us face religious obstacles to our pursuit of Jesus and His blessings.

a. Perhaps you grew up in a church where nothing EVER happened, and no one wanted anything to happen.

b. Perhaps you saw the excess, people doing things in the name of God that God did not bless, and that led you to reject ALL things having to do with the Holy Spirit and miracles.

c. **When you are faced with life's issues and problems, your previous religious experiences can either bolster your faith in Jesus or hinder your faith in Him.**

d. Rest assured that many of us have religious obstacles that must be overcome in order to see the real Jesus.

C. The last obstacle was the crowd. (physical barrier)

1. Jesus was surrounded by people.

2. Not only that, Jairus had just asked Jesus to go heal his daughter.

3. The physical Jesus was busy and was being pulled in a different direction.

a. **So often barriers preventing our miracle are barriers that we call:**

1. Time.

2. Energy.

3. Commitments.

4. Distraction.

4. **This unnamed woman had to push through religious barriers, cultural barriers, and physical barriers to receive her miracle.**

5. What she found on the other side of the barriers was worth it all.

6. Let's read this passage again.

a. Notice how the woman's faith led her to Jesus.

b. Then notice that Jesus gave her more than what she had asked for.

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4. The Woman's faith led her to reach out to Jesus.

A. Faith and love must exist together.

1. We know this to be true, but this woman didn't.
2. She didn't know that Jesus loved her.
3. She didn't realize that Jesus would die for her sins and her healing.
4. She simply believed that Jesus had the power to heal her.

5. Anonymously she reached out to Jesus, trying to stay hidden and undiscovered.

6. Jesus didn't let her stay anonymous.

B. When miracles happen, there is more at stake than what you seeking.

1. We live in a "me" culture.

a. Our natural default is to make everything about "me".

b. And we carry this over to our prayers.

c. Perhaps many of our prayers go answered because they are "me" focused and not God-focused.

2. So far in Mark, the focus has been upon the Kingdom of God.

a. The parables and the miracles stories all demonstrate Jesus' power over sin, the demonic, and the results of sin like sickness and death.

b. The woman came to Jesus to have her issues stopped.

c. Jesus used her faith and issues to demonstrate the power of His Kingdom.

3. When God does a miracle in your life, you are not the focus.

a. A miracle advances the Kingdom of God by demonstrating His power compared to our weakness.

b. Miracles testify to others that faith in Jesus is not a fairy-tale but reality.

c. Miracles encourage others to believe in Jesus as their Savior, Healer, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, and Soon Coming King.

d. When we pray for miracles, we are praying, "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

4. We must learn to see our prayers for miracles as prayers for God's power to be revealed in us and through our problems, issues, and obstacles.

C. Jesus makes a big deal out of this woman's faith.

1. He stops the journey and asks, "who touched him".
 - a. Many people were probably touching him at that moment.
 - b. But only one person was reaching out to him both with physical hands and faith.
2. Jesus felt healing power flow from Him to this woman.
 - a. Last week I said that faith is the only thing needed to get God's attention.
 - b. This is clear here.
 - c. It wasn't the size or seriousness of her issue, it wasn't the imminence of death or any other factor.
 - d. It was her faith that caused Jesus to take notice.
3. It was of such importance to recognize this faith that He called her out of her anonymity and brought her out into the open.

5. Through faith, the woman received more than she had asked for.

A. We all know what she needed.

1. She needed her bleeding to stop.
2. This is what she sought Jesus for and received.
3. But Jesus response shows us that she received more than that.

B. First, he calls her daughter.

1. This is the only time in the Gospels Jesus addresses a woman by this word.
2. In that one word, He was restoring what sin, sickness, and disease had stolen from her.
3. She was now a follower of Christ.
4. She was now one of the His people.
5. The healing power of Jesus is for more than your present sickness.
6. The healing power of Jesus also wants to restore you to a relationship with Him.

C. This is demonstrated in the word used for "heal" Vs. 34.

1. The Greek word used here is the word "saved".
2. Jesus had not only her physical healing in mind but her spiritual healing as well.
3. At that moment her faith not only healed her but saved her.
4. For it is the same faith in Jesus that heals and saves.

D. Lastly, he tells her to go in peace and be freed from her suffering.

1. Peace means more than freedom from anxiety but wholeness and completeness.
2. It means to be in right relationships with God!
3. An encounter with Jesus is more than fixing your problems.
4. An encounter with Jesus leads to a relationship with Him that overshadows our present issues and concerns.

6. This morning we are going to pray with anyone who needs a miracle.

A. But when we pray for you, we want more for you than a physical healing, a financial provision, or inner peace.

1. We want you to leave this place knowing Jesus loves you and that He is with you through it all.

2. It is Jesus' love for you and His presence that will get you through your time of need.

B. Whatever you are facing today, you don't have to face it alone.

1. The woman thought she was all alone and no one cared.

2. What she found was a Savior who loved her more than she realized.

3. When we give our issues to Jesus, we find that not only does He have the power to help, He has the compassion to help.