

信心的触摸，生命的连接——马可福音 5:21-43 (上)

A Touch of Faith, A Union of Lives – Mark 5:21-43 (1)

Introduction, outline

- Scripture reading: Mark 5:21-43 (NASB1995)

21 When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore. **22** One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on seeing Him, fell at His feet **23** and implored Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death; *please* come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live.” **24** And He went off with him; and a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him. **25** A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, **26** 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— **27** after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind *Him* and touched His cloak. **28** For she thought, “If I just touch His garments, I will get well.” **29** Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. **30** 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?” **31** And His disciples said to Him, “You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’” **32** And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. **33** 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. **34** And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.” **35** While He was still speaking, they came from the *house of* the synagogue official, saying, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?” **36** But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid *any longer*, only believe.” **37** And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James. **38** They *came to the house of the synagogue official; and He saw a commotion, and *people* loudly weeping and wailing. **39** And entering in, He said to them, “Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep.” **40** They *began* laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child’s father and mother and His own companions, and entered *the room* where the child was. **41** Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, “Talitha kum!” (which translated means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). **42** Immediately the girl got up and *began* to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded. **43** And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that *something* should be given her to eat.

- Among all sufferings people may experience, diseases and death are the most common and hardest to bear. Consider the various kinds of illness people suffer from, acute diseases, chronic diseases, infectious diseases, skin diseases, congenital diseases, cardiovascular diseases, all kinds of cancer, all kinds of disabilities and terminal diseases..... Each illness reminds us of the consequences of sin and the inevitable death of our body, as well as our only hope for salvation.
- Outline:
Title: A Touch of Faith, A Union of Lives
 1. Setting: Jesus Hurrying to Save Someone (vv 21-24)
 2. Suffering: Woman Being Sick for Years (vv 25-26)

3. Seeking: Woman Touching with Faith (vv 27-29)
4. Seeing: Union of Lives with the Lord (vv 30-32)
5. Speaking: Mutual Confession Before the Crowd (vv 33-34)

Setting: Jesus Hurrying to Save Someone (vv 21-24)

- “One of the synagogue officials named Jairus” : Both the noble and the despised must face illness and death. Synagogue official is a highly honored title, suggesting Jairus is a religious leader of the Jews who has much power and influence. He would’ve been very close to the Pharisees and scribes, and might well be a Pharisee himself.
- “came up”: For someone like Jairus to come up to Jesus, there must’ve been a lot of social pressure. Doing so would undoubtedly offend his scribe coworkers and Pharisee friends. They had long been public enemies of Jesus.
- “Fell at His feet”: This could cost him his job! What gave him such great courage? The fact that his daughter was dying. Who cares about social pressure when you’re in a life-or-death situation?
【Insight】 Many people use social/cultural pressure as an excuse to not attend church or pursue Jesus. They fear church commitment would cost them their jobs or friends or popularity in the world. This is because they don’t realize how precious life is, nor do they see Jesus is the only hope for life. Anyone who knows how precious life is will come to see Jesus like Jairus.
- “lay Your hands on her”: Is this little faith or great faith? Does he not know that Jesus can heal with a word? Obviously his faith needs growth, but Jesus did not criticize him, but went with him. Jesus has great patience for believers’ growth of faith.
- “get well”: The original text means “be saved”. This word spells out the most basic need of everyone. Everyone, since the moment he’s born, is on his way to death, unless there is a Savior to save him. The reality of death proves we need salvation. Many people do not see that need until the moment of their death.

Suffering: Woman Being Sick for Years (vv 25-26)

- “A woman”: The Bible doesn’t even mention her name, which is in stark contrast to Jairus who is very well respected. Death comes to both the poor and the rich.
- “Hemorrhage for twelve years”: A female disease. In addition to the physical pain, it also inflicts spiritual and mental hardship. Hemorrhaging brings much shame and contempt from others, second only to leprosy (cf. Lev.15:26-27).
- “had endured much at the hands of many physicians.....”: She paid to suffer. Literature shows the Jews at that time used many remedies for hemorrhaging, and the process of using some of those remedies itself is a torture.

Seeking: Woman Touching with Faith (vv 27-29)

- “came up in the crowd behind”: Secretly approaching Jesus, she obviously doesn’t want to be recognized. She doesn’t want to see the strange look on other people’s faces. Without saying a word, she just wants to go in and touch Jesus and leave. She believes Jesus’ healing power is something she

can get, which implies her faith in Jesus' compassionate heart that he can really sympathize with believers in pain.

- “If I just touch His garments, I will get well”: Sounds like superstition, doesn't it? Does Jesus' cloth have superpower? There are two similar accounts in Mark (3:10; 6:56). Obviously, this was a common superstitious belief in Galilee. This woman had much growth to do with her faith, yet Jesus affirmed the genuineness of her faith (v34).

【Insight】 This is the faith that pursues Jesus against all odds. This faith compels her to squeeze into the crowd and come before Jesus. The principle we should apply: pursue Jesus relentlessly against all odds. Some people are so busy at work that they often sacrifice their time with the Lord. Is there anyway to find time to draw near to Jesus?

- “Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up”: Instantaneous, complete healing, without any delay.

Seeing: Union of Lives with the Lord (vv 30-32)

- “Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth”. This does not mean Jesus' power is passive and cannot be controlled as if He can only passively perceive it being used. The point of this line is: Jesus feels His power personally when it acts on others. When His power goes to the woman, He can feel that personally. This is a union of lives!
- “Who touched My garments?”: Why would Jesus stop, turn around, and ask the women to confess what had happened? Think about it. What did the woman think of Jesus? A power machine? A walking battery charger that recharges her when she's low? She needs to know the power of Jesus is a living power which Jesus feels personally.

【Insight】 Jesus has such a special connection with the believers, so that when you draw strength from him, he knows it consciously that you're using His power. Jesus's power is personal, coming with His mind, emotion and will. We often pray for God to give us strength. He not only gives us strength, He gives us Himself in His strength! The touch of faith doesn't just touch Jesus' cloth; it touches His heart!

【Theology】 One of the greatest blessings of salvation is the union of lives between the Christians and the Lord. The most common way the Bible describes Christians is “in Christ”. Far from being a mere abstract concept, this is a true union of lives (Galatians 2:20), and that's the very reason we can always draw strength from Him (Phil. 4:13).

- “crowd pressing in on You”: Everyone is pressing against each other in the crowd, but Jesus feels the woman's touch in a special way. There are also people who appear to be seeking Jesus in the church, but without true faith, they don't have the true life union with Jesus.
- “He looked around to see the woman who had done this”: Obviously, the woman kept silent for a while. But Jesus was determined to see her, so he looked around to see her. She must see His face! Power is not the point, relationship is! Jesus wants her to know that she's known by Him personally. Jesus is not a mere power that she can freely draw from. Jesus is the Lord who knows her personally out of all the people in the crowd, who desires to see her face to face.

Psalm 27:4: One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the Lord
And to meditate in His temple.

Psalm 27:8 When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You,
“Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.”

【Key Spiritual Principle】 True faith seeks God’s face, and is not content with just getting His power. All spiritual blessing of the believer comes from seeing God’s face by faith.

Speaking: Mutual Confession Before the Crowd (vv 33-34)

- “But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her”: Every genuinely saved person should respond this way. Philippians 2:12 says only with the attitude of fear and trembling can we be truly sanctified. If the church has less of the lighthearted kind of joy but more of fear and trembling, we will make greater progress in our sanctification. How to cultivate a heart of fear and trembling? We need to know “what had happened to us”. We need to know what Jesus has done for us, and what kind of relationship we have with Him. This kind of knowledge cannot be found in the world, but only in the Word of God.
- “told Him the whole truth”: She did not confess immediately, but she procrastinated, and was struggling. According to Luke 8:45-47, when Jesus asked for the first time “Who is the one who touched Me”, she was still hiding in the crowd; but when Jesus said “I was aware that power had gone out of Me,” she suddenly realized “what had happened to her”, so she stopped hiding. The power of healing did not bring immediate submission, but the realization of the life union with Jesus did. It brought true reverence and submission.
- “Daughter, your faith has made you well”: As she acknowledged Jesus publicly, Jesus also acknowledged her publicly (cf. Matt 10:32-33). Daughter is the most intimate term of filial relationship. Again, Jesus wants her to taste the sweetness of this intimate relationship. Only a forgiven sinner can become a child of God, so her faith must include the confession of sin, the desire for forgiveness, and the acknowledgement that Jesus is the Lord.

1 John 3:1 “See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.”

- “go in peace” : Not only was she healed physically, but she also received eternal peace for her soul.

Summary

The touch of faith brings the union of lives which brings eternal heavenly peace. Do you have faith like this? If so, how do you show in your current life that you are pressing into the crowd to touch Jesus?