

## **“Healing Touch”**

Mark 5:20-34

Rev. Min Chung

(Large Group, Friday, January 20, 2017)

### **Mark 5:20-34**

<sup>20</sup>And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled. <sup>21</sup>And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. <sup>22</sup>Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup>and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” <sup>24</sup>And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. <sup>25</sup>And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup>and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. <sup>28</sup>For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” <sup>29</sup>And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup>And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” <sup>31</sup>And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” <sup>32</sup>And he looked around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

### **Introduction**

*[We are shown a video about how a little boy who loves Messi, the soccer player, and is able to meet him. The boy does not want to leave Messi’s side during the game.]*

From the video, we observe that the boy really loved his hero. Likewise, I wonder if we want to be like Jesus, as much as that boy wanted to be with Messi. We must understand that we have a hero unlike others, that can clothe us with righteousness. Spending more time with him helps us receive power to be more Christ-like. In the passage, we see a bleeding woman, suffering from an unmet need, who wanted to be with Jesus. Reading this passage while I was younger, I thought that she was bleeding through her nose. Now, I understand that she had a chronic menstrual disorder for 12 years. Such a problem would be difficult for any woman in any era, but for the Jews, it particularly resulted in more than a mere discomfort. In fact, no part of her life was left unaffected by this problem. In the Old Testament, when a woman bleeds, she was considered unclean during the time, due to the commandments given in Leviticus chapter 15.

Of course, this does not apply to us now, because after the death and resurrection of Christ, we were all washed in the blood of the lamb. Sin came into the world in Genesis chapter 3. Moreover, sin can be transferred, with others being affected by our sins. For example, sin is transferred to our children, who in turn produce more sinners. That cycle had to stop through Jesus Christ. In essence, the bleeding was considered unclean because it is related with birth. Similarly, with men, if they were uncircumcised, they were considered unclean. These laws were given so that we would know that sin transfers, and that without Jesus Christ stopping this cycle, we would keep producing generations of sinners. In this text, we will see that Jesus is the cure. The woman was in much need of Jesus Christ, and likewise, many of you may feel the same way: unclean and unworthy to come to Jesus Christ today, at the start of this semester, whenever you go to church or before your quiet time.

Many of you have had good breaks via attending retreats, serving, and going to church. Nevertheless, I have a good understanding of people through the years and know that many had bad breaks as well. Know

that when you come to Jesus Christ, you can always start over. He can cleanse and empower you, so do not quit, as He never quits on you. Ask Him for strength and keep on walking, as it will be worth it, although it may be difficult. We will learn from this woman to be healed, cleansed, and empowered. We will look at the threefold phases of her healing. We will examine the phases: before the touch, during the touch, and after the touch, so that we can learn how to touch Jesus. In summary, she touches Jesus Christ's garment, receives the power of Jesus Christ and is forgiven, cleansed, and empowered to be used by God.

## **I. Before the Touch**

### **A. The Woman**

#### **i. She had desperate needs**

Verses 25-28 talk about her desperate needs. In particular, verse 25 says "*And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years.*" I must reiterate that this is difficult for any woman of any age, and that as a Jewish woman, she was considered unclean, such that whatever she touched was also seen as unclean. Domestically, she could not do her house chores, neither could she function as a woman at the time. Socially, she had to be very careful in her associations, as accidental contact with others would make them unclean as well. Sexually, she could not touch her husband, hence, maternally she could not bear children. Perhaps, the most difficult of all was that, spiritually, she was not allowed to enter the temple, according to the Law of Leviticus. In summary, she was physically exhausted, socially ostracized, and spiritually dry for twelve years. She was surely in desperate need!

#### **ii. She tried everything possible to meet her needs**

Verse 26 mentions that she tried everything possible to meet her needs as it says, "*and who had suffered much under many physicians.*" This implies that she went to many doctors, seeking a cure. It is the same thing in this world when we are living in sin, apart from Jesus Christ. Our motives may not seem bad, but in our hearts, we are living for ourselves, our own glory, and sin will always leave you bleeding. No matter where you go to, you cannot be healed. Even if you seek pleasure, Doctor Pleasure cannot heal you. Even if you try to fill your emptiness with education and different religions, no doctorate or religion can fill you, neither can relationships. Jesus is the only spiritual physician of your soul. Today, we can go to Jesus to get our bleeding to stop.

#### **iii. She had nothing more to spend**

She had spent all of her money, as we notice in the second part of verse 26, where it says, "*and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.*" Her finances were gone and she was drained of everything. In the same manner, sin will drain you until there is nothing more to spend. I believe that is why the Bible teaches us to be pure until marriage, sexually and emotionally. If you are not pure, then sin will drain your purity. A sexual relationship between you and your spouse is allowed because it causes unity and a love for one another. The more and more you drain yourself through impurity, the more you are draining up the purity you ought to have in your heart. Of course, you can be forgiven and restored, but you need to strive to remain pure until marriage. This example is a symbol of how sin drains us. We all have an image of God that He uses to picture himself to the world. However, the more and more you sin, the more and more you drain that image. I urge you to use your abilities to live for and serve God and people. Be repentant in order to be restored. In Jesus Christ, there is always hope. As observed in Verse 27, where it says, "*She had heard the reports about Jesus,*" and as such came to see if they were true, we learn that somehow, the information about Jesus in her mind

generated a hunger in her heart as faith causes hunger. The lesson here for us is that, regardless of how empty you might feel, or how unhappy or afraid you are, Jesus can heal you. Instilling even a little information about Jesus in your heart can make it grow.

## **B. Humanity**

The story covered in these verses is one of four miracles that take place in chapters 4 and 5 of Mark. Looking at the sequence, the first miracle was about Jesus' power over nature as observed in verses 35 to 41 of Chapter 4. The second is on His power over demons, while the next two are on His power over disease and death, respectively. These four things are associated with Genesis 3, when sin entered into the world. When Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden, God told them that "*the ground is cursed because of you.*" Birds and nature began to rebel against humans and all sorts of trouble came about as a result of their lie. Essentially, these chapters are now saying that Jesus came to reverse the curse of failure. It is a picture of the spiritual reality of when Jesus returns. Then, all of these curses will be completely overcome by him. Therefore, we need to be encouraged as we look at this passage.

## **C. Encouragements**

There are few more notable and encouraging things that we now examine:

### **i. Choose the path of faith**

Choose the path of faith, even when you might want to quit. I believe that quitting and not trying, is in one sense, worse than sinning. This is because, when you are sinning, you can always go back to the cross, but when you quit, you just stay there, neither progressing in your spiritual life, nor being forgiven. Do not quit, rather love Jesus more. You can go to Him again and again, to start over, because Jesus Christ died just for you. The lowest place we can fall, is on the rock solid foundation of Jesus Christ. All of us can fall, but we can fall on Jesus, He is our justification. He cleanses our sins and we get a clean slate to start all over again. If you are losing blood, which is a symbol of life, get up and go to the cross to be forgiven. When you are going through tough times, know that it is a good moment to go to the Lord. A healthy lady would never have appreciated the touching of His garment. She was desperate after 12 years of suffering. Hence, the lesson for us here is that, the more we suffer, the more desperate we can be. I encourage you to use hardships and failure to get closer to the Lord.

### **ii. Anyone can come**

Her healing is sandwiched between two other miracles, one of which is the resurrecting of the daughter of an official. This lady was not invited, but rather barged in. She was not an important official, but rather a normal woman who was ostracized. She had faith, and received the crown of Jesus. Only the ones who are hungry for Jesus Christ can receive His grace and mercy.

### **iii. Show gestures of faith**

*-Mark 5:27- She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him.*

She only heard about Jesus and came. This is all she did, and her life were changed. How many of you have done this? Any gesture of faith, whether praying, praise, asking for prayer or confessing of sins, is all that is needed. He has never rejected a genuine gesture of faith. God honors radical, risk-taking faith. In summary, when arks are built, lives are saved; when lunch was shared, thousands were fed; and above all, when garments are touched, lives are changed.

## II. During the Touch [29-30]

Let us examine lessons we can learn from events during the touch, as seen in verses 29 to 30.

### A. The most important thing about faith is the object of faith [28, 30]

The most important thing about faith is the object of one's faith. She said "*If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.*" Even if you have great faith, but in the wrong thing, it will greatly discourage you. However, if you have only a little faith in the great and awesome God, that is going to release power into your life. I believe that is what was meant in Luke 17:6, when it talks about: "*If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, then you can move the mountains.*" Because God is that big, He is that awesome. However, we tend to have faith in all sorts of other things, whether it is another God, different idols, people, or things in our hearts, rather than the awesome God. Whatever else we have faith in besides Him will fail. But a small faith as a mustard seed, in the amazing and omnipotent God, will have power released through you into others.

Notably, the woman was willing to go through all sorts of obstacles. She had to be very careful as anybody that she touched could be defiled. She was risking persecution to go to Jesus because she knew that her focus was on Jesus and that He was the object of her faith. Jesus was not even aware that His power was released until it was. Often times, we feel like God is not willing to give us what we want until we have suffered enough, but the opposite is true. For example, when kids do not eat, the parents need to try a different method to get them to eat. They will chase after the kid. They will pinch his nose to get his mouth to open, and then put the food into his mouth. This is a picture of what God is like. He corners us with hardships and difficulties so that we can be hungry, and then, He stuff His grace into our lives. Personally, looking at the Scripture, and in my life, I can see that is the kind of Jesus I have had for these last 30 years. I could be wrong, but that is the kind of God that I also see in my Bible. The lesson for you here is to know that as soon as you turn around to see His face, He will stuff strength, mercy, forgiveness, and power in your life.

### B. Faith is the condition of the heart [28]

While the object of one's faith is the most important thing, the condition of one's heart is also vital. Without receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you cannot have faith. But somewhere in you, there was a time when He held you, you had faith somewhere in your heart, and you came alive, were born again, filled with His Spirit and gained the capability in your spirit's nature to have faith. However, due to the two natures always fighting in you, you can always think faith or faithless thoughts at any moment. For example, we can examine events surrounding when Peter walked on water. The disciples were not sure if it was Jesus or not, but full of faith, Peter said, Jesus, if it is you, let me walk on the water. Peter then obeyed and walked on the water as he looked at Jesus, but as soon as he glanced at the waves, he began to sink. Like Peter, we have two natures and kinds of thoughts that can stimulate our hearts to either believe or doubt. Faith is the condition of our heart and we can constantly change the condition of our mind and the state of our heart. Fix your eyes on Jesus, and think of His words rather than the words that make you doubt.

Taking a look at the woman again, if we look at her thinking process, we can see her heart. She said, "*If I touch even his garments, I will be made well,*" Mark 5:28. Where is her faith? Not in 'I', not 'touch', not 'garments', but in 'his'. At that moment, she had the faith in Jesus Christ, and because of this, the power was released to her. Similarly, sometimes when I pray over someone, and they truly hunger for God, I can feel the Spirit of God travel from God to them. I am like a straw that allows grace to flow from God to this person. Anyone who hungers for God receive it, whether or not I am present.

### C. Faith exchanges- not just releases but exchanges [29-30]

Faith was not just released in this interaction, but it was also exchanged. If we look at the passage carefully, we can observe an incredible exchange taking place in verses 29 and 30, which say, “*And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.*”<sup>30</sup> *And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him.*” Something went out from Jesus into her, and something from her to Jesus, as well. There was a collision in faith. The flow of her suffering was on a collision with the power of Jesus Christ. Of course, this is just a glimpse of the constant collision of cross. All our sin went to Him, and we gained all of His righteousness, covered in his name. Isaiah 53:5 says “*By his stripes, we are healed.*” He received the beating, while she received the healing. Her bleeding stopped, and His will later begin. We can also receive the power and righteousness of Jesus.

The author was very intentional in the number of people who are around Jesus, and he mentions, at least three times, that there was a large number of people. Let us examine them. First, verse 21, “*a great crowd,*” then in 24, “*a great crowd followed him.*” Later, in verse 31, he also says, “*You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’*” The big picture here is that many people touched Jesus that day, but only one touched Jesus and received the healing. There are hundreds of people in this room, but I am not sure how many are touching Jesus through faith. For those who touch Him, an incredible exchange can take place, with all of their sins going to Him. All your weaknesses and failures can be handed over to Him, and you can be filled with power, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and growth in return. Above all, it is the condition of the heart that matters, not the size.

### **III. After the Touch [30-34]**

#### **A. Jesus [30]**

Why did Jesus ask, “*Who touched my garment?*” The simple point was because He wanted to use this situation. When Jesus was on the earth, He healed. He also gave the incredible privilege to continue His work to the disciples. However, He shows us her healing because he wanted to use this to heal many other people through her testimony. In addition, after Jesus healed her, He also restored to her the dignity that she had lost for those 12 years, and gave her a purpose. He gave himself to her, so that she can show Him to others through her testimony, in order that they may receive their healing through Him. Jesus Christ came so that we can see, feel, touch, and receive His grace. He is the one who came, so that as we meditate on his word, our heart can be in a condition of faith. We can receive His power, and be a strong power for His people.

#### **B. The woman [33]**

What was the woman’s reaction? Well, she did not immediately come out with a sense of pride, rather, she had the opposite reaction. We can tell this from verse 33 which says, “*But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth.*” She was trembling because she thought that whatever she touched became unclean and had a fear that she had defiled Jesus, and that He was now aware. However, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that ALL of our sins were put on Jesus, and He was made unclean in our place, and we are made clean. I wrap up here by reiterating that she was healed in order that others may receive her testimony.

#### **C. The testimony [33]**

Look at Verse 33 once again: “*...fell down before him and told him the whole truth.*” According to Mark, she told Him, but according to Luke, she was telling everyone else. Luke 8:47 says “*in the presence of all the people,*” so that they can hear her telling Him, meaning that Jesus was using her testimony to strengthen others. Even if you are afraid of giving testimonies, the worst that can happen is that people will say ‘you look stupid.’ But if by any chance, you speak anything of Jesus,

He will be honored, glorified, praised and worshiped, and that is worth it. The advantages of giving testimonies are threefold: it strengthens one's faith, strengthens others, and glorifies God.

Psalm 50:15 says "*and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.*" She called onto the Lord, and He answered, and as such she is glorifying Him. Galatians 1:24 says "*And they glorified God because of me.*" This is from the context of Paul giving a testimony from his conversion, as we examined last semester. Be healed, so that you become healers for the glory of God. In addition, I love Jonah 3, where Jonah prayed and a revival happened within him. The Word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time. He had failed the initial time, but it still came a second time. Though Jonah failed the first time, He was forgiven and restored. Though humanity failed the first time, He restored us through Jesus Christ. God is pretty good at using frail, deficient people and is always willing to give another chance. Isn't He? He is not only repairing, but He is always preparing to use you. He is touching us, even though we may think that we are the ones touching Him.

### **Conclusion**

About 30 years ago, there was a song about a girl who had to make a living for her family. All she had left was an old violin, given to her by her father. However, she had to give her violin to an auctioneer. At first, the prices were very low, but an old man was watching it. He came to the auctioneer, tuned the violin, and began to play. He played a masterpiece, making the price of the violin to skyrocket. We can say that the difference was in the touch of the master's hands. We are just like that violin. When we touch Him in faith, He fine tunes us to use us to play incredible tunes of the Gospel of salvation of Jesus Christ.