

“Have You Touched Him Lately?” - Mark 5: 21-43 (also in Matthew 9 and Luke 8)

TODAY we mark the words of Jesus in Mark 5:30 where he asks: ***“Who touched my garments?”***

- 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." [*only daughter-Lk*]
[*“lay Your hand on her and she will live – Matt 9:18*]
- 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— [*could not be healed-Lk*]
- 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." [*“fringe” or “tassel”-Matt*]
- 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. [*saw flute players – Matt.*]
- 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!"). [*her spirit returned – Lk*]
- 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. [*soul and body raised-disarming Gnostic thinking*]

TWO MIRACLES CLEARLY LINKED – points to “why?”

Recorded as linked in Matthew, Mark and Luke

The only two miracles of Jesus so linked/intertwined in the gospel accounts

Some more obvious observable links:

1. “12 years” (girl’s age & woman’s disease)
2. Both miracles “immediately” (v.29, 42)
3. Contrast – respected man (Jairus) & outcast, unclean woman
4. Acts of DESPERATION both – “my little daughter” “at the point of death” (v.23) / “spent all that she had” & “was not helped” but “rather...worse” (v.26)
5. RISKS both – Jairus risking condemnation of fellow Synagogue leaders, the woman risking condemnation of the crowd and Jesus
6. Acts of FAITH both - “she will live” (v. 23; Mt.9:18) & “I shall get well” (v.28)

THE KEY LINK, in my opinion – TOUCH

- v. 23 – “come lay your hands on her”
- v. 27 – the woman “touched his cloak”
- v. 28 – “for if I touch His garments, I shall get well”
- v. 31 – Jesus: “who touched me?”
- v. 41 – Jesus “taking the child by the hand”

The power of physical touch

The power of emotional/spiritual touch

“HAVE YOU TOUCHED HIM LATELY?”

HURDLES OVERCOME

In Jairus

1. prejudice forgotten – he came despite former condemnation
2. dignity forgotten – he falls at the feet of Jesus
3. pride forgotten – he asks this “people’s prophet” for help

In the woman

1. social decorum forgotten – she came despite her “uncleanness”
2. embarrassment forgotten – she came despite her “personal problem”
3. diagnosis forgotten – she came despite her “incurability”
4. Our “desperateness” for Jesus must overcome these hurdles

5. GO FIRST to Jesus – not “last resort”

LESSONS IN THE HEALING OF THE WOMAN

1. THERE IS A COST TO MINISTRY – Jesus had power go forth from Him (v. 30)
2. THERE ARE LIMITATIONS TO “COMMON SENSE LITERALISM” – the disciples observed the silliness of concern about “touch” in a crowd – but only one truly “touched”
3. THERE IS RELEASE IN CONFESSION – the woman was in “fear and trembling” until she told Jesus “the whole truth” (v. 33) then she was fully healed of her affliction (body and spirit – v. 34)
4. SPIRITUAL CHANGE REQUIRES A TRANSFER OF JESUS’ CHARACTER - KJV of v. 30 says that Jesus knew that “virtue had gone out of him” (Wycliffe translation also)
Mark well: *Jesus wants to change ME more than my circumstance*

LESSONS IN THE RAISING OF THE YOUNG GIRL

1. JESUS CHANGES OUR PERSPECTIVE OF DEATH
 - a. Not the voice of despair (v. 35) but hope (v. 36 – “be not afraid”)
 - b. Not the attitude of distress (v. 38 – weeping and wailing) but calm (v. 39)

Jewish culture (and many others), at death, prescribed PROFESSIONAL MOURNERS, WEEPING, WAILING, PULLING OF HAIR, BREAST BEATING, SHRILL PLAYING OF FLUTES, HANGING OVER THE BODY, TEARING OF CLOTHING, NO SHOES, NO BODY ANOINTING (deodorant), NO READING OF SCRIPTURE EXCEPT JOB & LAMENTATIONS

Indeed, Christians are not to grieve as those who have no hope (1 Thess. 4:13)

2. JESUS’ RESURRECTIONS ARE BODY AND SPIRIT – COMPLETE
 - a. This is in direct contradiction to the Gnostic teaching of then and now that say spiritual healing is only in your mind
 - b. Jesus wanted the girl to have food, just as He ate after he was resurrected – to show physical resurrection as well as spiritual resurrection.
 - c. Our life will change whenever God changes our heart

3. JESUS TOUCHES US IN RESURRECTION WHEN WE TOUCH HIM IN FAITH OF HEALING

Here is a spiritual truth found in the linking of these two miracles.

The woman reached out to touch Jesus. Then Jesus reached out to touch and raise the young girl. So, it is that when we reach out to Jesus in faith he reaches out to touch and raise us.

IN CLOSING – Hear Jesus say today: “Who touched my garments?”

HAVE YOU TOUCHED JESUS LATELY?

1. Reaching out to Him in desperation for what He alone can give
2. Confessing to Him the whole truth of your desire and need
3. Believing in faith that He will change you - body and soul
4. Allowing his CHARACTER (“virtue”) to transfer to your life