

Theme: Even those who are outcasts from society and whose situations are hopeless will receive salvation when they reach out to Christ through faith.

I. Intro - Magical “Faith”

- A. Humans are often drawn to “magical” things, places
- B. Stirring waters in John 5; bronze snake 2 Kings 18:4
- C. Relics in church history - part of what led to the Reformation!
- D. But we still see this today - televangelists!
- E. A similar story today - but Jesus clarifies the truth

II. A Tale of Two People

- A. A man named Jairus comes to Jesus

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³ and pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” ²⁴ So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. Mark 5:21–24

- 1. Jesus returns and a crowd gathers (how different than the reaction of the townspeople in Mark 5:18)
- 2. Jairus, a synagogue ruler comes to Jesus
 - a. Synagogue rulers were respected
 - b. Not “professionals” but oversaw the synagogue
 - c. We will see Jairus is a man of means as well
- 3. He falls down before Jesus (like the demoniac)

- 4. His daughter is at death’s door - but he has faith that Jesus can heal her
- 5. So Jesus goes to heal the daughter - and the crowd is following and pressing around Him.
- 6. At this point there is an interruption - we will pick up Jairus next week!

- B. An outcast woman in great need comes to Jesus

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. Mark 5:25–26

- 1. A woman bleeding for 12 years is in the crowd
- 2. This means she is ritually unclean - an outcast
 - a. Anything or anyone she touches becomes unclean
 - b. She is shut out from all human contact like a leper
- 3. She has gone to doctors and they were no help
 - a. Doctors knew VERY little then and often made things worse!
 - b. The Talmud lists remedies for this type of affliction including a goblet of wine mixed with a powder of rubber, alum, and garden crocuses, a sudden shock, or carrying the ashes of an ostrich egg in a special cloth - not exactly modern medicine!
 - c. “The best doctors are worthy of Gehenna” (Talmud)
 - d. Thank God for modern medicine!
- 4. She had spent everything and was now poor
- 5. The end result: she was only worse! How pitiable!

C. A tale of two people

1. The stories are told together to be read together
2. Jairus and the woman have things in common
 - a. They have both heard of Jesus and come for help
 - b. The woman has been bleeding for 12 years and Jairus' daughter is 12 years old (Mark 5:42)
 - c. Both have a desperate need no one else can help
3. Jairus and the woman are a study in contrasts
 - a. Jairus is a man and she is a woman (vulnerable)
 - b. Jairus leads the synagogue and she can not even go to the synagogue
 - c. Jairus is honored in the community and she is an outcast (like the Gadarene demoniac or a leper)
 - d. Jairus is a man of wealth with servants and she is destitute
 - e. Jairus is named and she is not even given a name (literary device) - she is virtually a non-person in society
4. Jesus immediately set off to help Jairus, the prominent man of wealth and standing. Will he help this anonymous, outcast woman?

III. Savior of the Outcast

A. A strange story of healing

When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."
²⁹Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. Mk 5:27–29

1. The woman does ask Jesus to heal her - she sneaks up behind Him to touch His outer garment
2. She might have some superstition
 - a. People often thought healing came through touching things that touched a holy person
 - b. Perhaps she even thought Jesus would not consciously agree to heal her
3. But she clearly has hope and faith Jesus can heal her and so she goes among the crowd and she touches His garment.
4. She is immediately healed - and she knows it!

B. Jesus' surprising response

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹ "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" ³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Mark 5:30–32

1. Jesus immediately knows power has gone out from Him to heal
2. This shows that Jesus did not consciously choose to heal her - the Father did this.
3. Jesus turns and asks who touched His clothes!
4. The disciples' incredulous question (like the storm - which shows how little understanding they still have)
5. One can imagine how this "interruption" filled Jairus with worry!
6. But Jesus is undeterred - He knows healing has happened and wants to know who has been healed

7. He will not move on until the person comes forward - this is a Divine interruption!
8. Jesus is often working to meet needs we don't even recognize, and so His purposeful work can seem pointless or even counter to the needs we perceive.

C. The outcast healed, saved, and restored

Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." Mark 5:33–34

1. The woman finally comes forward, full of fear (Mark 4:41; 5:18), and tells what happened. Now everyone knows of the miraculous healing.
2. Jesus pronounces her fully healed, saved, restored
 - a. Jesus says she is healed and freed from her suffering
 - b. 'Healed' (σώζω) often refers to salvation
 - c. The woman has not only been physically healed; she has truly and fully been saved and restored.
 1. He calls her daughter - she has been restored to a relationship with God.
 2. Her uncleanness has been removed by Jesus!
 3. Jesus pronounces the blessing of peace - shalom - upon her
 4. This is FAR more than physical healing - she has been restored to God and the community
3. This outcast woman has been fully healed, saved, and restored by the power of God through Jesus

4. She has not received a miracle through some relic but by the personal relationship and restorative power of Jesus.
5. She may be an unknown, unnamed outcast to others, but she is family to Jesus!

IV. Applying the Word

- A. No one is outside the power of God to save
 1. Jairus is a respected, wealthy, connected man
 2. The unnamed woman is a destitute, outcast woman
 3. But such distinctions do not matter to God!
There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:28
 4. Society privileged men over women, free over slaves, and different people groups thought they were God's favorite - but Jesus has removed such distinctions in coming to God!
 5. This destitute, outcast woman has the same access as the wealthy, connected synagogue ruler Jairus!
 6. Take heart - whatever you think disqualifies you from knowing, loving, receiving from, and serving God is of no consequence to Him!
 7. Don't despair or make excuses - reach out to Christ today! He will not push you away!

B. Do I see salvation and blessing come from Christ alone through faith alone?

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1. Notice that the healing/salvation come from Jesus
 - a. Healing, salvation, and every blessing comes from Jesus alone but is received by faith alone
 - b. We tend to think healing, blessing, and salvation are found in relics or holy places, but they are found in Jesus Himself!
2. Also notice Jesus says her faith healed/saved her
 - a. What an amazing statement!
 - b. More complex than faith = healing - AfterHours
 - c. But faith is critical - and God responds to faith!
 - d. Many people touched Jesus and did not receive because they did not have true faith!
 - e. We can praise God, pray, read Scripture, and come to the Lord's Table - but if we do not do these things with faith we will not receive (NOT ex opera operato)
3. Notice the characteristics of her faith in this story
 - a. Faith has a desperate desire for blessing - she knows Jesus is her only hope!
 - b. Faith produces definitive action - she did not just think about Jesus, she pressed in to touch Him (also like the men lowering their paralytic friend through the roof)

- c. Faith is willing to risk - if she had been discovered she could have been beaten or stoned!
- d. Faith is willing to publicly confess Christ - she came forward and told what had happened (which means she opened herself up to disapproval and even danger for having been in the crowd while unclean)

4. Let's press close to Jesus and receive from Him by faith!

C. The Table of Blessing

1. This represents the ultimate blessing - salvation
2. This also represents all God's covenant blessings
3. But we must come in faith to receive!
4. Reach out to the Lord and receive by faith!

Savior of the Outcast

Mark 5:21-34

Mark 5:21-34, 2023

Communion

Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: Christology; Jesus; faith; healing; salvation and deliverance

The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

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