

Sermon title: Trusting Jesus for complete healing

Sermon text: Mk 5:34

Introduction

1. This is a familiar passage of Scripture.
2. This passage is easy to understand but very difficult to practise.
3. This woman challenges each one of us today.

Sermon outline

1. There was a woman with a long-term hormonal imbalance.
2. Consequently, she suffered as a social outcast for the past 12 years.
3. When she heard of Jesus, she determined in her heart to believe Him for healing her condition.
4. She wanted to be healed so that she could re-join the community of God.

²⁵ 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.

Observation

a. “woman” – a second class citizen because it was a patriarchal society.

b. “bleeding” – this was probably a hormonal imbalance.

This hormonal imbalance caused her to be ritually unclean (Lev 15:25 – 27).

Because she was ritually unclean, therefore anyone who touched her also became ritually unclean.

Effectively, she was cut-off/isolated from the community of God.

c. “twelve years” – this was a long-term hormonal imbalance; not a temporary inconvenience.

Therefore, she was a social outcast for 12 years.

d. “suffered ... grew worse” – nobody (not even doctors) could heal/help her.

e. “spent all she had” – by now, she was financially drained; a destitute.

Observation

To recap:

- a. the subject was a woman – a second-class citizen
- b. she had a long-term hormonal imbalance which resulted in her being ritually unclean. Those who came into contact with her were also ritually unclean.
- c. nobody (not even doctors) could help her
- d. despite treatment, she became worse
- e. she was financially drained and became destitute

Taken together:

1. She was the ultimate social outcast.
2. She was desperate and she was destitute.
3. Nothing she did or others did could change her status before the community or help her desperate situation.
4. She wanted nothing more than to re-join the community of God.

²⁷ 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.” ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

Observation

1. “heard about Jesus” – see Mk 5:20.

(a) The man began to tell in the Decapolis and (b) the people were amazed.

2. She “thought” (believed) and she “touched” – she was immediately healed.

3. Notice that she:

a. was prepared to battle through the crowds to reach Jesus (recall BBC on Mid Eastern crowds)

b. had no other choice; no Plan B

³⁰ 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

Observation

a. Jesus realized that power had gone out from Him and Jesus looks around for the person who caused His power to go out from Him.

b. Jesus is looking for a public acknowledgment/public honour. In the culture of honour, if the Patron has bestowed a gift on a client, then it was rightful that the client gave loud, public thanksgiving to the Patron.

c. The purpose was for the client to enhance/increase the Patron’s public honour.

d. If the client remained silent then the Patron would be shamed. The Patron would not accept such a silence (shame) from the client.

³³ 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.”

Observation

“fell at his feet ...with fear” – she was terrified that Jesus would castigate/scold her for the loss of His power.

“told him the whole truth” means “she believed in Him to heal her and then acted on her belief in Him.” (5:28).

Here, the woman (client) publicly acknowledges that gift/blessing she receives from Jesus (Patron). Her (client) public acknowledgement enhances the honour of Jesus (Patron).

“**Daughter**” – a term of endearment; she most likely to be Jewish.

She had expected Jesus to castigate her (5:33); instead, Jesus addresses her in endearing terms.

“**Go in peace**” means “you are now healed of your hormonal imbalance.”

“**be freed from your suffering**” means “you are no longer a social outcast. You are now part of the community of God”.

Application

This story is a picture on 2 levels:

- a. the woman is a picture of a sinner who is healed of sin and is now part of the community of God
- b. the woman is a picture of our desperate situation which Jesus alone is able to help.

Summary

S/No	Woman	Sinner
1	Long term hormonal imbalance	Nature of sin
2	Doctors could not cure her	Religious leaders cannot cure sin
3	As long as she was in this condition, she was outside the community of God.	As long as sinners are in sin, sinners are outside the community of God
4	She decided in her heart to trust Jesus for healing	Sinners can decide in their hearts to trust Jesus for healing
5	She acted on her inward trust in Jesus	Sinners can proclaim/declare their trust in Jesus
6	Jesus healed her immediately	Jesus can heal sinners immediately
7	She is restored inside the community of God	Sinners can be restored inside the community of God
8	She publicly honoured Jesus for His healing	Sinners must publicly proclaim God's salvation to others.

Summary

S/No	Woman	Christian
1	Long term hormonal imbalance	Picture of a long term desperate situation
2	Doctors could not cure her	Nobody can help our desperate situation
3	She decided in her heart to trust Jesus for healing	We can decide in our hearts to trust Jesus to help in our desperate situation
4	She acted on her inward trust in Jesus	We can act to trust Jesus in our desperate situation
5	Jesus healed her immediately	Jesus can immediately rescue us from our desperate situation. BUT, this does not mean that He will.
6	She publicly honoured Jesus for His healing	When Jesus helps us in our desperate situation, we must publicly give thanks. This is the reason for testimonies during the Watch Night Service.