

Woman with Issue of Blood

Mark 5:25-34

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One of the most famous musicians of the nineteenth-century was a self-taught Norwegian violinist named Ule Bull. He was a composer and artist of amazing skill who toured Europe and America with enormous success. During his lifetime, he was the world's most renowned violinist.

But he wasn't known by everyone. One day as he hiked in the forests of Europe, he became lost and in the dark of night stumbled upon a log hut, the home of a hermit. The old man took him in, fed and warmed him. After dinner as they sat in front of a fireplace, the old hermit plucked some crude tunes on his old battered violin.

Ule Bull asked "Do you think I can play on that?" The old hermit who was embarrassed at the condition of his violin said "I don't think so." Ule Bull said "Let me try."

He took the old beat-up violin and drew the bow across the strings and suddenly the hermit's hut was filled with music so beautiful, that the hermit sobbed like a child."

In a sense all of us are like a weather-beaten violin. But if we only let the master touch these old broken instruments of ours, He will do a work in our lives and make a blessing to others.

My text is Mark 5:25-34. It is the story of the woman who had a medical condition that appeared to be incurable.

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. 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.

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. 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." This is the Word of God.

Luke, the physician, was the one who penned our scripture text and tells us that this woman who had come to Jesus with some type of OB-GYN disorder. When I was a chaplain on active duty, I had the opportunity to discuss this passage of scripture with two US Army surgeons, one General Practitioner, and a Physician's Assistant.

And what they all told me, based on what little information that has been given, this woman could have been an inherited bleeding disorder which is called von Willebrand's disease or Menorrhagia, which includes prolonged bleeding and cramping.

Certainly, it could have been something else. But with today's medical advances, she would be treated with a hormone type of medication, perhaps have a hysterectomy or have an endometrial ablation or resection. Certainly, after medical treatment, she could live a normal life.

Luke from his perspective as a doctor tells us this woman had spent all of her money on finding a cure, but there was none to be found. In those days, medical science was primitive.

For example, medical practitioners would grind up herbs and mix them with sour wine and the patient would drink it. Then there were other bitter and nauseous concoctions to dull the pain, but very rarely did that ever work.

But there was something else that made her life intolerable. She was ritually or ceremonially unclean. Which meant if she touched anything or anyone, they too would be unclean. Because she could not touch anyone or take care of any children, it was likely that she was divorced from her husband and alienated from her family and all her friends.

There was more, a person in her condition were excluded from the synagogue and the temple. I am sure some of the rabbis didn't help matters when they considered this woman to be cursed by God for some unhidden sin and that too was a significant burden to live under.

So, when she came to Jesus it was her last and only hope. I can't help but think of how many come to Jesus as our last resort. Sometimes I wonder how many of my problems would have been solved had I come earlier. So let me encourage everyone to seek God and pray right away.

There is an article that I read on line. It is called "When Prayers for Healing Actually Worked" published by Reader's Digest. Let me tell you about one of the healings.

Jackie Williams from Florida wrote: One day in my early 30s I woke up with a heartbeat that wasn't normal. Throughout that

day, I was out of breath and felt tired, but I couldn't go to sleep because my heart was beating funny. Finally, at the urging of my mother who works as a nurse, I went to the emergency room.

There I was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation, a common form of an arrhythmia, a problem with the rate or rhythm of the heartbeat. Laying in that hospital bed I decided to eat healthier and removed toxic people in my life. Most importantly, I found a church home. I prayed not only for others but for myself. I called on God to heal my body.

I decided that I would have an ablation, a procedure that was supposed to stop the irregular heart rhythm. Before the procedure, my doctor told me to stop taking the medicine. He wanted my heart to go into start beating irregularly, so he would know exactly where the problem was and fix it. I told the members of the church that I was going to go through with the procedure and they prayed for me.

When the procedure was over, Jackie she found out that her doctor tried for an hour to get my heart to go into A-Fib, but it never did. And to this day, it hasn't done it again.

Praise God, Jackie received her healing. It was a combination of the changes she made in her life. She found a church home, she prayed and others prayed. And that is how God seems to be healing these days, a combination of things.

Jewish tradition states that the woman in our scripture text was Veronica and she lived in Caesarea Philippi some 25 miles away and she had to get to Jesus. It was her only chance.

In Biblical days, devout Jewish men wore an outer robe with a blue border with four tassels on each corner. It was a prayer shawl, the same kind Jesus wore.

Because this woman's condition was embarrassing which made her ceremonially unclean, she would be condemned for touching Jesus, but she was desperate.

When she touched the hem of the Lord's garment, maybe his prayer shawl, she felt healing and at the same time Jesus felt power go out of him. Now Jesus did her a favor when he called her out.

If she had gone home and said that she was healed. They would think that she made it up just to be considered "clean" again. But Jesus called her out so that *others* would know and give God the glory.

When we are healed by God, we need to tell others. That God is alive in our lives and that he still hears and answers prayer. When the Lord touches our bodies, it is a wonderful thing.

On the other hand, God doesn't always answer our prayers in the exact way we think. A lot of times, he has a divine plan and often uses sickness and injury to teach us. A lot of people often get right with God in the Emergency Room, the ICU or in their hospital bed and he reserves the right to do what is just.

When we reach the other side that is when we will receive our glorified bodies, but any physical healing or touch from God is an act of mercy, a blessing, a down payment of better things to come.

There have been numerous people that we have prayed for, they didn't get the exact physical healing they desired, but they received a spiritual healing, a touch from the Lord. Why is it that there are some faithful, dedicated Christians do not receive a physical healing? I don't know. It is a mystery to me. But when we pray, we do it in faith and leave the results to God.

Dr. Mark Houston of the Hypertension Institute at Nashville's St. Thomas hospital once wrote "The data is impressive. If you have those ingredients of religious commitment-faith, prayer, worship attendance and other things, you are better off in all aspects of health. How we practice our faith lends itself to good physical health.

What I have noticed that when we pray for people in this sanctuary, people are touched, many have gotten well. We not only pray for the individuals to get well, but for God to give the doctor's, surgeons, pharmacists, technicians, nurses, the skill to bring about healing.

I have had people tell me they felt the prayers of God's people as they were being wheeled in the operating room, that they felt the peace of God.

But if you need more prayer, we can put you on the prayer chain and we can anoint you with oil. The anointing oil is not magic, but its purpose is to ask God to oversee the entire medical process, to include doctors, medicine, surgery, rehab, nursing care and recovery.

My observation is that most people who are anointed with oil and prayed for along with medical treatment will see some physical or spiritual improvement.

The physical healing of the woman with the issue of blood proves Jesus' authority over sickness and death. My personal belief is we should pray to God for healing and let God answer in his way. The prayers of God's people in the church are vital and let us trust in him.

[James 5:16](#)

Confess your faults one to **another**, **and** pray one for **another**, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent **prayer of a righteous man** availeth much.

If you are in need of prayer, reach out to me, the prayer chain or to your pastor, if you are reading this on-line.

God bless!