

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

G . The Second Tour of Galilee

13. Jesus Heal a Woman's 12 Year Hemorrhage (Miracle #16)

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #099

MK 5.25-34 (Parallel Texts: MT 9.20-22; LK 8.43-48)

(As Jesus was on the way to Jairus' house...)

24^B ^MA large crowd was following him and kept on pressing up against him, ^Lalmost crushing him. 25 ^MA woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, ^Lbut no one could heal her. 26 ^MShe had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent everything she had, yet instead of getting better she only grew worse.

27 Having heard about Jesus, she came up from behind him in the crowd and touched ^Lthe bottom hem ^Mof his cloak, 28 because she was saying ^{MT}within herself, ^M"If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."

29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt sure in her body that she had been permanently healed of her suffering.

30 Because Jesus immediately realized that power had gone out from him, he turned around in the crowd and asked, *"Who touched my clothes?"*

31 ^LWhen all the people denied it, Peter and ^Mhis disciples were saying to him, "You see the people crowding against you, and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

^LBut Jesus said: *"Someone touched me, for I know that power has gone out from me."*

32 ^MBut Jesus kept looking around him to see who had done it.

33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, ^Land seeing that she was not hidden from Jesus, ^Mcame out of the crowd and fell at his feet. Trembling with fear, she told him the whole truth, ^Land spoke plainly in the presence of all the people about why she had touched him, and how she had been instantly healed.

34 ^MHe said to her, *"Daughter, ^{MT}take courage. ^MYour faith has made you permanently whole. Go on and live in peace. Be set free from your suffering."*

^{MT}And the woman was healed from that very hour.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	In a Town by the Sea of Galilee, Probably Capernaum
Timeline	May--Oct. (Months 16 to 21)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry

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	G. The 2 nd Tour of Galilee
Title	13. Jesus Heals a Woman's Twelve Year Hemorrhage (Miracle #16)

COMMENT:

The fourth of the six consecutive miracles in this amazing sequence featured a distinct aspect of Jesus' power. This was the only miracle in Jesus' ministry in which a person exercised faith to receive healing from him when he was not expecting it, and actively encouraging it. It surprised him, and revealed both the power of Jesus, and the essential power of faith for connecting with him, and receiving from him. It is therefore one of the most important miracles in the gospels for its teaching value on the nature and necessity of faith.

Regarding the power of Jesus, the miracle shows it was great enough to instantly heal a woman who was humanly impossible to heal, even when all the woman did was touch the lower hem of Jesus' cloak from behind him, so lightly that he could not feel it. What Jesus DID feel was the way the power of the Spirit flowed out of him, into the woman's body to instantly heal her 12 year long hemorrhage. Jesus felt power being released from him, and that meant that someone had believed in him.

Jesus' power is great enough to be instantly released with an imperceptibly light touch. But what kind of touch? This miracle shows that it is our faith that causes us to touch, or hook up with Jesus. It was not the physical touch of Jesus' cloak that caused his power to be released. Why do we say this?

The evangelists make clear that many people in the crowd were pressing up against Jesus and touching him physically. However, none of those people were touching him with faith in their hearts. This woman did not touch Jesus' body--only his cloak--but her faith caused her to connect with him spiritually, and his power therefore flowed into her. We see here that it is faith that unites us with Jesus, not our physical senses.

We have already seen in the gospel of John that the Greek preposition used for "believing in" Jesus is literally "into" him. John's gospel used the verb "believe" over a hundred times--more than half of the uses in the entire New Testament. This makes John the most important Book in the Bible for understanding the nature of faith. John makes precisely the same point with his signature use of "believing into Jesus" as this miracle in the Synoptics. It is faith that connects with Jesus, to the point of actively penetrating into him to create an invisible, indivisible union.

The vast majority of people that came into contact with Jesus throughout his earthly life only did so on sensory level. They saw his body with their eyes, heard his voice and the sounds he created with their physical ears, touched him through their skin, and a few, like his mother Mary, knew his smell or taste. In spite of living in the presence of God Almighty in Jesus, 99% of the people whose physical senses "connected" with Jesus never touched him with faith, and therefore did not know him at all. This woman--and this miracle--give us a real-life demonstration of these truths. So Jesus went out of his way to clearly explain the role of faith in this miracle.

Because Jesus knew that someone had touched him spiritually--by faith--and therefore power had been released to that person, he deliberately sought her out. He wanted to make sure that she understood how important her faith was in connecting to him. Understanding this truth would allow her to stay in touch with him permanently, and receive not just a one-time healing, but all of his fulness in an ongoing way. So Jesus drew out her confession before all the people.

The Lord did not rebuke her for touching him without his prior permission, or awareness. He praised her for having the faith to connect with him, and he then commanded her to keep on going in that same manner--living by faith in him--in the peace and wholeness that only he could give her.

Key Point: She was to move beyond a momentary touch to a permanent connection with him by the ongoing, constant expression of her faith.

This sequence of six miracles collectively emphasized the crucial role of faith in fellowshiping with Jesus. We will summarize this in the next DJN reading, which contains the fifth and sixth miracles in the chain.

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APPLICATION:

Any of us can touch Jesus, any time with our faith. In fact, He commands us to "abide" in him by constantly staying connected to him by faith.

Jesus is waiting to pour himself into us by the power of his Spirit, like an electrical socket is waiting to release its power to anything that plugs into it. Faith is the spiritual substance that "connects us" into Jesus. This healing miracle is probably the greatest example of this principle in the entire ministry of Jesus.

How do you need to "plug into" Jesus by faith today? He is waiting to release all of his divine fullness into you when your faith links you up with him.

What do you need to trust him for?