

“A Finger of Faith!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. 2 Stories in one!
 - 1.1.1. One an anonymous poor woman, the other a wealthy religious leader.
 - 1.1.2. You’ve heard the saying, *“The ground is level at the foot of the cross.”*

2. A HOUSE CALL REQUESTED! (40-42)

- 2.1. **HOPE WAITS!** (40)
- 2.2. He waits with many on the shore line of Galilee.
- 2.3. **A RULER HUMBLLED!** (41)
- 2.4. Here this rich synagogue ruler lays it all down.
- 2.5. **WHEN LIFE SLOWS YOU DOWN!** (42)
- 2.6. **Thronged** – verb means to strangle.
 - 2.6.1. They so pressed Him that it was hard for Him to move forward.

3. BLESSED INTERRUPTIONS! (43-48)

- 3.1. **WHEN JESUS’ BACK IS TOWARDS YOU!** (44)
- 3.2. **HER DISEASE!**
 - 3.2.1. How she suffered. So long. This *“flow of blood”* was a constant “menstrual cycle”. Which made her unclean. Which ostracized her from the Temple, the synagogue. Orphaned by society, as she couldn’t touch or be touched.
 - 3.2.1.1. Mosaic Law segregated for the sake of **hygiene**, but people had a false conception of the nature of the disease. They thought it was a result of personal immorality.
 - 3.2.2. She tried everything, exhausted all her resources. Tried “the Mayo Clinic, UCLA med center, & Loma Linda” of the day.
 - 3.2.3. She went from doctor to doctor who filled her mind with **hopes**, & her body with **folk remedies**.
 - 3.2.3.1. But all they really relieved her of was **money**.
 - 3.2.4. But she hears of a physician who charges no fee, asks for nothing in return, who has no hidden agenda beyond making a sick world well again!¹
 - 3.2.4.1. Who comes **not** to those with **well-ordered lives**, **but** to those whose lives are filled with **physical & moral chaos**.

¹ Ken Gire; Intimate Moments with the Messiah; pg.48

3.3. HER DETERMINATION!

- 3.3.1. Just being *in the crowd* is no assurance of receiving the blessing.
- 3.3.2. **Touching the Tassel!** (border - fringe, or tassel)
- 3.3.3. **Read Numb.15:37-41**
- 3.3.3.1. Before Palm Pilots & voice messages we remembered things with **strings**. Like the string tied around a finger!
- 3.3.3.2. Moses instructed, "And you will look at the strings, & you will remember all the instructions of God...& you will be holy."
- 3.3.4. **Put on the Tallit** (Taleet) or prayer shawl. [Heb. *tseat tseaf*]
- 3.3.4.1. [1] Open with *atarah* facing you [2] recite the *berachah* [3] Kiss last word [4] place over head for moment of meditation [5] place on shoulders.
- 3.3.5. Her faith assured her that Christ could bless her even when his back was turned!² **Q: Can you also reach this point?**
- 3.3.5.1. Last week we learned about having faith when Jesus is **asleep!**
- 3.3.5.2. Can you trust Him when His **back is to you?**
- 3.3.6. Such little faith, but faith it was! [just a mustard seed]
- 3.3.6.1. He's not waiting for you to do some **great feat** of faith for him. If you did, your pride would try to own its own salvation!
- 3.3.6.2. She only had a **thin thread of faith!**
- 3.3.7. She took a Risk! – "*If you take **no risk**...you're **not alive!***"
- 3.3.7.1. Playwright Neil Simon said, "If no one ever took risks, Michelangelo would have painted the Sistine floor."³
- 3.3.7.2. "**You miss 100% of the shots you never take**" Wayne Gretzke
- 3.3.7.3. **Half of life is "if."**
- 3.3.8. **Why this method?**
- 3.3.9. Not really written "*if you can get to it, touch it*"!
- 3.3.10. **Was it faith + a little superstition?**
- 3.3.11. We know later in Mat.14:34-36 "When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they **might only touch the hem of His garment**. And as many as touched *it* were made **perfectly well.**"
- 3.3.12. There was nothing magical about the Tallit; **but** there is something supernatural & miraculous about **Yeshua & His word!**
- 3.3.13. She grasps it & it pulls Him back, not her **hands** but her **faith!**⁴
- 3.3.13.1. She releases & is swept away by the crowd.
- 3.3.13.2. **But it stopped Jesus right in His tracks!**
- 3.3.13.3. **Q: Has your faith ever stopped the Lord like that?**

² Spurgeon At His Best; #1825

³Galaxie Software. (2002; 2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.

⁴ Ken Gire; Intimate Moments with the Messiah; pg.49

3.4. HER DELIVERANCE!

3.4.1. Healed & sent on her way!

3.5. WHEN JESUS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE? (45) [*back to Jairus*]

3.6. All this time Jairus was **waiting!** He had to be experiencing *impatience!*

3.6.1. But Jesus was delaying, while the child was dying.

3.7. Who touched me? – “who cares”, “my daughter is dying, remember?”

3.7.1. Is this a multi-tasking issue? – A priority issue? – I was here 1st!

3.7.2. **Illus:** Some years back I was sitting w/Mical in emergency room at **Rancho Springs**. We had already waited a few hours, when they brought a **drunk** in who didn't want care, was cussing, screaming; & we were told his injuries were serious & they'd have to **attend to him 1st**. To say this most mildly, “I was bitter at this man.” (I was here 1st!)

3.8. But the Lord has such a wonderful way of running the whole world at one time.

3.8.1. Jesus is like the **sun shining** as it rolls onward in its orbit.

3.8.2. (**Rose illus.**) You can never exhaust the fragrance of His love & healing, as you could never smell the fragrance completely off a flower!

3.8.3. Jesus wasn't a cool **cup of water** that once drunk it is finished; but an **endless fresh stream**, that will never run dry!

3.8.3.1. Rev.22:17 “**Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.**”

3.9. HER DECLARATION! (47,48)

3.10. Jesus would not permit her to **steal away & remain anonymous**.

3.10.1. Jesus doesn't like undercover Believers. He likes blowing their cover. 😊

3.10.2. She would never had the opportunity to **Worship Him**(fell down at His feet)

3.10.3. Nor, glorify God by **her testimony** “*he healed me!*”

3.10.4. And, she would never have **heard** His special **words of blessing**(48)

3.10.4.1. **Daughter** – (a tender word) meaning she's now in the family!

3.10.5. **Go in Shalom** – Oh, blessed peace.

3.11. **Q:** For what area of your life do you need to reach out & touch His hem for today?

3.11.1. Do you need a **phys** healing? A **spiritual** healing (Salvation)?

An **emotional** healing that only Jesus could ever fix?

A **mental** healing (you feel like you're losing it)?

3.12. **Q:** Would your life be more like those in the crowd that might occasionally **brush by Jesus** in the rush hour of **religious activity?** (Ken Gire)

3.12.1. Close to His **presence** but far from His **power?**

4. **TOO LATE? (49-56)**

- 4.1. **WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?** (49,50)
- 4.2. **Then the crash of doomshe was dead! Forget it!**
- 4.2.1. Faith shaken, love wounded, hope destroyed.
- 4.2.2. **But** before Jairus could even react –**Good News** speaks.
- 4.2.3. Jairus **heard** the Word & **trusted** that Word.
- 4.3. **Made well!** – “I just heard that!” (in vs. 48)
- 4.3.1. Ahhh, blessed re-assurance!
- 4.4. **Facing the Future with Jesus!** (51)
- 4.5. **How long was the gap in these 2 verses?**
- 4.5.1. Can you travel that far w/Jairus? He went in faith!
- 4.5.2. Here he faced the **future** with Jesus! *What a great place to be!*
- 4.6. Sometimes **in** a crowd, other times **away from** the crowds.
- 4.7. **Faith’s Test Again!** (52,53)
- 4.8. What Jairus found returning home must have *rocked his world* one more time.
- 4.8.1. Weeping, wailing, howling, lamenting...she’s was dead! - & there she lie.
- 4.9. **Sleeping** – when believers die, the **body** sleeps, but the **spirit** goes to be w/the Lord
- 4.9.1. Eccl. 12:7 “**and the dust** returns to the ground it came from, **and the spirit** returns to God who gave it.”
- 4.10. **Little Lamb!** (54)
- 4.11. In His mother tongue of Aramaic “*Talitha cumi*”, “*little lamb, arise!*”
- 4.12. **3 MAIN LESSONS IN THESE 2 STORIES?** (55,56)
- 4.13. **[1]** 2 effects of man’s fall in the garden were? *Disease & death!*
- 4.13.1. Note: both are subject to Jesus!
- 4.14. **[2]** Salvation comes through **faith**, & **the woman & Jairus** reveal the kind of faith that Jesus seeks.
- 4.15. **[3]** Jesus can be trusted!
- 4.15.1. Whether you are facing, or will face the pain & helplessness of a lingering illness like this woman; **or** the fearful reality of bereavement & death...**JESUS CAN BE TRUSTED!!!**
- 4.16. **End:**
- 4.17. Jesus is passing by again this morning. Don’t miss Him. Reach out & touch w/faiths little finger!
- 4.17.1. **Crowds** press, while **Faith** reaches out & touches.
- 4.17.2. Will you remain part of the **crowd** **or** will you **reach out & grab onto** Christ’s hem today?