

Mind Blowing Faith

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August 31, 2025

Luke 8:26-39; Mark 5:21-43; Matthew 18-26.

Introduction -

Mark affirms she knows she will be healed.

Leviticus 15 in mind all the time.

1. Saving Faith.
 - a. Individual issue.
2. Mind Blowing Faith. (This is so serious that the lady is shaking)
 - a. Leper vs The lady. Conflicting Issue.
 - b. Social issue. She's Illegal in the crowd.
 - c. Danger: Religion. Self-Righteousness. Judgement seat.
 - d. Solution: Put ourselves in their shoes.
 - e. Solution: Put ourselves in our own shoes.
3. Faith in Jesus.
 - a. Our reading of the Bible should bring us closer to God.
 - b. Our reading of the Bible should bring others closer to God.
 - c. Illustration: Go train story.

App: Common sense.

App: God wants to be touched. The King is in the Multitude.

Conclusion -

Status: Daughter.

The fear of the Lord.

Introduction:

In the last two sermons we saw Jesus' power over (i) Creation and (ii) the Devil. Now we have the final display of his power: (iii) Illness and (iv) death will be subjected to Jesus. The evangelists Mark, Luke, and Matthew had the same goal when writing these 4 events back-to-back. They wanted to prove Jesus is God.

In today's sermon we will talk about the lady with a blood discharge issue that persisted for 12 years. Her story starts with another story, Jairus' story. He has a need and he goes to the right person to ask for help. We can notice the huge contrast between Jairus and the lady:

Jairus: Famous, we know his name, a leader in the Synagogue, wealthy, requests for Jesus' favour in public.

The lady: Anonymous, we don't know her name, segregated from the Synagogue, lost all her money due to her illness, she approaches Jesus secretly.

It is important that we identify a slight flow in the Evangelists' writing. They are focusing on Jairus' and the lady's faith. Our last two sermons, the focus was solely on Jesus' power - the disciples didn't know what to do but Jesus calmed the sea, & Jesus healed the 2 demon possessed men without anybody requesting him to do so. As we will see Jesus' healing and resurrecting power; we also want to learn about faith - from Jairus and this lady.

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Today's Sermon is focused only on the lady, not Jairus (we will talk about him next Sermon).

Context:

We need to read Leviticus 13-15 to understand this lady's faith. These 3 chapters talk about leprosy and blood discharge (hemorrhage). Both the leprous person and the woman with continuous blood discharge issues were to be segregated from the community and the religious life. Everyone they touched was considered impure.

Therefore, she was breaking the law in two ways: (i) she was among the multitude; (ii) she intentionally touched Jesus' *clothes*. She technically was making everyone around her impure in an attempt to be healed.

(Just for the sake of curiosity, can you imagine the chaos that would've happened had she not been healed?)

Now that your curiosity has been awakened, can you see how *great* her faith is?

She KNEW she would be healed. How many of us would've approached a situation like that thinking "I will try, if it works - good; if it doesn't work - at least I tried..." Her faith *knew* healing would happen.

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Three perspectives we can learn from this story:

1. Saving faith.

This woman is the picture of all of us and our sins: She was separated from the Temple. She was segregated from society. She was dying daily - her blood (life) was being discharged daily. She spent all her money, and no one could heal her. Even when she does the most remarkable move (defying her quarantine order by faith), she is "technically wrong."

Money, religion, and society. Nothing, nor no one, could save her; only Jesus could.

Saving faith happens when we realize sin is killing us little by little; and no one, nor anything, nor even religion can save us. Only Jesus can save us! And we, by faith, touch him. Though the Pure One could've condemned us (the Impure Ones) for touching him; he rather has chosen to say "*son/daughter, don't be afraid, your faith has healed/saved you; go in peace.*"

2. Mind blowing faith.

What's mind blowing about this story? You may say, "she defied the quarantine orders to touch Jesus." That is right, but let us add to this story here:

We have seen Jesus "defying" the Sabbath a few times; and he went unpunished for doing so.

We have seen the leprous man "defying" his quarantine orders, going into the multitude (without touching anyone), positioning himself in front of Jesus and begging for healing. He never *touched* Jesus because he knows the Law forbids him to do so. Jesus touched him and healed him.

In both these stories, Jesus is the one who "defies" the Sabbatical/Leper Laws. We accept that because Jesus is God; Jesus is the Law himself - He gives the Law and he interprets/acts upon the Law.

Today's case is different: The lady "breaks the Law." She is the one who *touched* him. You would expect Jesus to condemn the Law breakers, but He calls her "daughter..." And Jesus says "your faith has saved you..." "Go in peace..."

This is mind blowing!

What is the purpose of the Law???

Truly I tell you that she understood the whole purpose of the Law: To bring her closer to God! To restore her relationship with Him. And truly I tell you, that in many instances, we “keep the Law perfectly,” and we end up not “touching” God like she did... All we do is we obey rules but never connect to the Law Giver.

When God told people to segregate due to hemorrhage or lepers, he did not MEAN to segregate them from their relationship with Him! He wanted to protect the community (love your neighbour); but He still wanted people to connect with him (love God).

3. Faith in Jesus.

All this concludes to this: Faith in Jesus.

The saving faith and the mind-blowing faith is only faith, because of Jesus. Had she touched the wrong person, she would've been guilty. She touched Jesus, she became clean.

Power (dunamis in the Greek) comes out of Jesus. Salvation is pronounced by Jesus. Restoration to society and to God is given to her by Jesus. The whole multitude touched Jesus, but they never “touched” him; many pressed onto him, but only she got his attention.

Luke is very careful when writing this account with some Jewish symbols: Jesus wearing the Tallit and the lady was ill for 12 years.

(i) The Jewish people use their Tallit (gown) with the edges exposed with some knots (called “Tsit Tsit”) which symbolizes the 613 Commandments of the Law. When the lady touches the cloak, immediately power comes out from inside of Jesus. Luke is saying: Jesus is the Word of God incarnate. (ii) The number 12 refers clearly to the 12 Tribes of Israel. Jesus is the Messiah sent to save the nation of Israel. What the Law could not do (exclusion due to impurity), Jesus could! (“daughter, your faith has healed you”). (iii) “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” The fear of the Lord: What amazes me the most about this lady, is that her plan was to “steal/rob” a blessing from Jesus with no one noticing it (Jesus included). When Jesus gave her the opportunity to speak, she did it trembling, “I did not mean to disrespect you nor even touch *you*, see, all I did was touch *your cloak*. That’s all, I did not even mean to disrespect you...” And Jesus kindly says, “Daughter, your faith has saved you.”

When the lady touches just the cloak, she does not touch Jesus himself, because she knows she is impure, and she doesn’t want to make him impure. That’s what I call a

healthy fear of the Lord. The true fear of the Lord sounds like this: "My father is the king... and the king is my father..." At home we call him Dad, because he is indeed our father. In public we call him Lord, because he is King indeed. These two statements dwell in our heart in perfect peace; we never disrespect the king just because he is our father, nor we take advantage of our father just because he is the king.

Conclusion -

1- So the law was our guardian until Christ came so that we might be justified by faith. (Galatians 3:24)

Both: The evil lawbreakers such as prostitutes, publicans, tax collectors; or "good" or "victim" lawbreakers such as this lady who only wanted to solve her issues. Both need the same Saviour.

2- Let's be very careful that our hearts don't grow cold in self-righteousness...

The real question is not if she "broke the law" to touch Jesus. The real question is: "Do I think I have the right to touch Jesus?" If I say yes, I have become more blind and impure than her. If I say no (the correct answer) I put myself in her shoes - which is literally the right place, since we are all on the same boat.

