



“She Knew Who He Was”



Because of her great faith, her story is told in three of the gospels, Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34; and Luke 8:43-48, to be an example to all of us. In the Bible she is known only as the “woman with the issue of blood,” but she has been remembered in Scripture for 2,000 years because of what she did one day in the streets of Capernaum.



This woman had suffered terribly for twelve years with a menstrual flow of blood that could not be stopped. She had spent all of her money going from one doctor to another, but she never got better, only grew worse. Then, one blessed day, she heard that Jesus was passing by in the street outside of her house. She knew who He was and her spirit quickened within her and she began to say,

“If I can only touch His garment, I shall be made whole!!”
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What a statement of faith for her to make! Notice the number above the words ‘shall be made whole’ – it refers to the definition of the words in the Greek dictionary. This reference is important because the New Testament was written originally in Greek and in the original language words often carry more impact than the translated English words. So it is in this case, because in the Greek she was saying “If I can only touch His garment, I will be delivered of this curse, and be healed and saved and made completely whole in body, mind, and spirit!”

Each of the gospels speak of the great crowds that surrounded Jesus that day, with everyone pushing and shoving to get close to Him. In her weakened condition because of the continued loss of blood, she knew she would have a great struggle to even get through the crowd to reach Jesus. But she believed in her heart that this was the long awaited Son of God, come to earth to save and heal all who would believe in Him. She knew who He was! This gave her the strength to press through.

There was another reason she might not have been able to reach Jesus, and that was because under Jewish law a woman having a menstrual flow was considered ceremonially unclean and could be stoned for going out in public. In Leviticus 15:25-28, as long as the flow of blood continues she is unclean and anyone who touches her or her clothing is unclean and has to go through the ritual of cleansing. So for her to go out in public in a crowd was very dangerous because they might have put her to death. But her faith in who Jesus was gave her courage to overcome all obstacles to get to Him!

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She made it through the crowd, and came up behind Him. Matthew says she touched the hem of His garment, Mark says she touched His garment, and Luke says she touched the border of His garment (In those days Jewish men wore a long robes). You may hear people say that the reason she touched the hem, or the border at the bottom of His garment was because she was so weak she could only crawl, and that was all she could reach, but that's not true!



In the Greek the word hem means 'a fringe, a tassel, a border or a hem,' so each of the gospels is right, but we need to take a look at the word in each definition. In Matthew the word hem means 'fringe or tassel.' According to Jewish law in Numbers 15:38,39 and Deuteronomy 22:12, every Jew was required to wear a fringe or tassel at each of the four corners of the garment, one thread of each tassel was to be deep blue. These tassels were to be a perpetual reminder to them of the commandments of God, their duty to keep them, and the blessings of healing and salvation if they did. The Pharisees (legalistic Jewish priests) prided themselves greatly on these tassels and considered themselves holier than others by enlarging the size of these borders to make themselves seem more important (Matthew 23:5).

Another place where the touching of the border of Jesus' garment brought healing is in Mark 6:56. Wherever He went in villages, cities, or the country of Genneseret they begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment; and as many as touched Him were made whole.

So the little woman with the issue of blood knew what she was doing when she touched the hem of His garment. She knew Him to be the fulfillment of God's commandments and promises of healing and eternal life. She knew He was the holy Son of God!

The instant she touched that border on the hem of His garment, her issue of blood stopped! She felt in her body that she was healed of that plague! But, she became very frightened and began trembling because Jesus turned around immediately and said, "*Who touched Me?*" His disciples said, "*What do you mean? There is a throng of people touching you.*" But Jesus said, "*Someone has touched Me, for I felt virtue go out of Me.*" He didn't say, "Who touched the hem of my garment?", He said "Who touched Me?". (Luke 8:44-46)

In the Greek the word 'virtue' is 'dunamis' – the word we get our English word 'dynamite' from. There's a good reason for this, because the word 'dunamis' means 'miraculous power, the performance of a miracle, power, a mighty, wonderful work.' The root of this word 'dunamis' is 'force.' Jesus felt an imparting of the spiritual power to heal go out from Him into the woman. That power did not come from the border on the hem of His garment, that power came from Him! When she touched that border in faith, knowing who He was, she actually touched Jesus. That's why her touch in faith was different than all the hundreds of other people around Him who touched Him. She was the only one who touched Him in faith, knowing that she would be healed!

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When He turned to look at her, she fell down before Him in fear, and poured out her heart to Him in front of all the people and told why she had touched Him, and that she had been immediately healed. Jesus was pleased by her faith and said, "Daughter, be of good comfort: your faith has made you whole; go in peace." What a powerful statement! He didn't say My power made you whole, He said it was her faith that released the power and made her whole!

That tells us something very, very important! This woman endured great physical suffering, but she did not feel sorry for herself; she lived in poverty for years but did not become bitter against God; she was an outcast among her own people and lived in lonely isolation because she was ceremonially unclean, but she never lost faith that her Messiah, the Son of God, would come some day and heal her; she pushed and struggled against obstacles and dangers to get to Him, no matter what; her mind was settled, and her spirit was steadfast, that if she could just touch the border that represented who He was, she would be healed! And she was!

Where did she believe and have that faith? In her mind. The same place we have to believe and have faith. Faith is knowing something will happen. And the only place we can know something, is in our "knower," our mind! Praying, studying the Word, and learning about the Lord are the ways we develop faith. It is amazing the number of women (and men) who are struggling inside themselves with depression, anxiety, uneasiness, and unbelief who can't seem to reach God, can't find peace of mind and find it hard to pray, much less to reach out to Jesus in faith.

In the Bible Jesus made the way for us to peace and healing very clear. He said, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*" Matthew 11:28-30
"So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word of God." Romans 10:17

Have you the faith and courage like this woman to push through adversity, mentally and physically, to reach Jesus? Do you believe and know that He has the power to heal you, spirit, soul and body? If not, learning that needs to become the primary goal in your life starting now, today!



“She Knew Who He Was”

1. How long did this woman suffer her illness?

2. What did she believe would happen if she could touch His garment?

3. What gave her the strength to press through the crowd?

4. Why was it dangerous for her to go out into the crowd?

5. Why did God command Jewish men to put tassels on their hems?

6. How long did it take for the blood to stop after she touched the garment?

7. How did Jesus know that someone with faith had touched His garment?

8. Did that power come from His garment that she touched?

9. Was Jesus angry because she, an unclean woman, touched His clothes?

10. How do we develop her kind of faith? (Romans 10:17)
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE _____

“She Knew Who He Was”

1. How long did this woman suffer her illness?

12 years.

2. What did she believe would happen if she could touch His garment?

She would be made whole.

3. What gave her the strength to press through the crowd?

She knew who He was.

4. Why was it dangerous for her to go out into the crowd?

By Jewish law she was considered unclean.

5. Why did God command Jewish men to put tassels on their hems?

To remind them of the commandments of God they must obey.

6. How long did it take for the blood to stop after she touched the garment?

It stopped immediately.

7. How did Jesus know that someone with faith had touched His garment?

He felt the power flow out of Him.

8. Did that power come from His garment that she touched?

No, it came from Him.

9. Was Jesus angry because she, an unclean woman, touched His clothes?

No, He praised her for her faith.

10. How do we develop her kind of faith? (Romans 10:17)

MEMORY VERSE “Faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the Word of God.”