

Power of Faith

24 Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him. 25 A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. 26 She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse. 27 She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. 28 For she thought to herself, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed." 29 Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

30 Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my robe?" 31 His disciples said to him, "Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, 'Who touched me?'"

32 But he kept on looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done. 34 And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over."

Mark 5:24-34 (NLT)

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- When was the most desperate you have ever been?
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

V24-29

- O: What impressions do we get about this sick woman (v.25-26)?
- I: This story (v.24-34) is woven together with another story (v.21-23, 35-43). What sorts of fears are involved in these two incidents? What kind of fear in these accounts might we label as good fears and bad fears?
- I: How much courage do you think it took this woman to touch Jesus?
Note: this particular illness made the woman ceremonially unclean and thus unable to have contact with other people.
- I: Why do you think the woman sought to touch Jesus instead of speaking directly to Him?

V30-34

- O: So many people are clamoring for Jesus' attention (v.21), yet two people "get through" to Jesus more than the others (v.22-23, 30). How so?
- I: Why do you think the woman was afraid to admit that she had touched Jesus (v.33)?
- I: Why do you think Jesus makes the sick woman reveal herself (v.30-33)? For His sake? Her own sake?
- I: How was this woman's faith obvious to Jesus (v.34)?
- I: What is the relationship between faith and healing? Is it a simple formula, I do this and God then has to...?
- I: In what ways, other than the physical, was this woman healed and given new peace?
- I: This story (v.24-34) is woven together with another story (v.21-23, 35-43). What are the relationships between fear and faith in each of these incidents?
- A: What keeps you from turning your fears into faith? What are the on-going struggles/ailments that you are battling with? How has Jesus offered (or not offered) healing, and how have you seen Him in the process?
- A: Does Jesus' reply to the woman (v.34) give you comfort? If so, how? What areas of your life do you wish Jesus would speak this into? What is your role in this?
- A: What would you rather have if you could only have one (be honest): A formula for healing, or a relationship with God in the midst of life's ups and downs?

Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Pray together as a group. Offer your biggest fears to God and ask Him to turn them into faith.
- **Respond:** reflect upon Mark 1:14-39 and this weeks passage (5:21-43). Both emphasize Jesus' authority over a similar array of life's experiences. What new dimensions of Jesus' authority are shown here (5:21-43), and how can this authority calm your fears and strengthen your faith even more?
- **Read:** Next week's sermon (8/8/2010) will focus on Mark 6:1-13. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, etc.

* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. These guides rely heavily on a few different study guides; including "LifeChange Series" (ISBN 0891099107), N.T. Wright's guide (ISBN 9780830821822), James Hoover's guide (ISBN 9780830830046), and the Serendipity NT for Groups by the Young Life ministry (ISBN is N/A)