

## Study Guide - Characters 2 - from 7-22-2018

**Key Scriptures:** “Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, ‘If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.’” ... “And He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.’” (Mark 5:25-27)

- Luke 19:2-5 “Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.’”
- Mark 10:20-21 And he answered and said to Him, ‘Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.’ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, ‘One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.’”

### Start Talking:

- The “woman with the issue” suffered for 12 years. Do you know anyone who has had some problems or ailments for many, many years? Share.
- What would you say to the person in the previous question to lead them to the garment of Jesus? What would be required on their part?
- Jesus told the woman, “‘Daughter, your faith has made you well.’” Read James 1: 5-8. Have you ever caught yourself doubting that God will really answer your prayer? How do we defeat doubts?
- Describe the attitude or behavior differences between people who have faith “in” God compared to those who have faith “towards” God. Compare answers.

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### Start Thinking:

- We often try to convince people to put their faith in God. Does it surprise you to see in James 2:19 that the demons also believe in God? Can and should we teach new believers about faith “in” God without teaching about “faith” towards God? Or, should we wait and just hope they come to understand it later? Discuss.
- Compare David to the Israelite army when they both had to deal with Goliath. Which had faith “in” God and which “towards” God? Describe this event in terms of faith “in” or “towards” God. Share.

### Start Sharing:

- Re-read Luke 18:2-7. Do you tend to “diligently seek” God, or more often ask once or twice, then give up? Be honest, and share.
- What spiritual, psychological, or physical crowds do you need to push through to finally get to Jesus? What are your obstacles? Share.
- What attitude or understanding does someone need to have to go toward God intentionally and “deliberately” in faith? Discuss.

**Start Praying:** “Lord, You are as real to us as You were to the woman with the issue and to Zacchaeus. Help us to see the crowds and hindrances that keep us from getting to You. We are ready to overcome them and touch your garment. And we shall, in the Name of Jesus. Amen.”

### Start Doing:

- Zacchaeus climbed a tree because he was shorter than most in the crowd. Have you ever felt that others had advantages over you in reaching Jesus? Are you willing to climb a tree in front of everyone else to get to see Jesus?
- Read Luke 18:18-23 and Matthew 6:32-33. The rich young ruler kept the law, but had one “hook” in him that he was not willing to pull out. If God reveals a “hook” in you, are you willing to give it up? What keeps us holding on to things that God wants us to let go? Share and discuss.

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- Pastor Bobby asked, “Is it time for you to go from faith ‘in’ God to faith ‘toward’ God?” Some of you may remember when Indiana Jones had to step onto the unseen bridge to get to the Holy Grail. Are you ready to take action towards trusting God with something that is very important to you? Share, and muster up courage to step, crawl, or climb “toward” God.