

Connecting Our Faith to the Power of Christ

It is an honour to stand before you all to bring the Word of God. I thank Pastor Oscar for having confidence in me and allowing me to bring the message this morning. It is truly a blessing to stand before the people of God. We are on this journey together, though we have varying experiences.

A man fell off a cliff, but managed to grab a tree limb on the way down. The following conversation ensued:

“Is anyone up there?” the man asked.

A soft voice answered: “I am here. I am the Lord. Do you believe me?”

The man answered, “Yes, Lord, I believe. I really believe, but I can’t hang on much longer.”

Jesus said to him, “That’s all right, if you really believe you have nothing to worry about. I will save you. Just let go of the branch.”

There was a moment of pause, after which, the man replied, “Is anyone else up there?”

How many of us can take Jesus at His Word and believe Him when we find ourselves in precarious situations?

Let us pray.

How many of us, when we find ourselves hanging dangerously off a cliff, turn to something or someone

other than Jesus? Many times, we struggle with our faith. In the Book of Mark, we see a man who struggled with his faith. Jesus said to a man whose son was afflicted by a mute spirit that tormented him for many years, **“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23 NKJV)**. In response, the man cried out to Him with tears saying, **“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24 NKJV)**. **Have you ever asked God to help you through your moment of doubt?**

There is a fight in the Spirit Realm for our faith and we, like the man hanging from the cliff, are caught in a tug of war between faith and unbelief. The bigger the challenge, the more we find ourselves pulled toward unbelief. But the challenging times are the moments that our faith

should be at its greatest! Jesus says, **“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”** That means, that if we can hold onto faith, nothing is impossible. In fact, **“if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20 NKJV).** Even the smallest amount of genuine faith can have a profound impact in our lives. This morning, we will be looking at how a woman’s faith changed her life significantly.

Please turn with me to the Book of Mark. We will be reading **chapter five, verses 25-34.** I am using the New King James Version of the Bible. Here begins the reading of God’s Word.

25 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years,

26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.

28 For she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.”

29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?”

31 But His disciples said to Him, “You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, Who touched Me?”

32 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing.

33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

34 And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”

The title of my sermon is, **“Connecting our faith to the power of Christ.”** When our faith connects to the power of Jesus, mighty things happen in our lives. We move mountains when our faith is connected to the power of Jesus. Throughout the Scriptures, we see that Jesus responds favourably to our faith. You see, there is a relationship between power and faith. Belief gives people access to Jesus’ life-giving and healing power. Unbelief **blocks** it. You cannot expect the Saviour to move upon your situation, if you do not believe that He has the power to do so. You cannot expect healing if you doubt that

Jesus able to heal you. **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV).**

You must connect your faith with the power of Christ.

His Power and your faith go hand in hand.

Mark tells us about a woman who had a debilitating disease that lasted for twelve long years. **Have any of**

your struggled with something for a very long time?

When you sought help, **was Jesus your first choice or did you look for someone or something else?**

This story is told by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. These three Gospels share a large amount of content, similar wording, and chronological order, allowing them to be

easily compared side-by-side. And this story about the woman with the issue of blood, occurs in these three gospels, though unique in style and perspective.

We will look at her story from Mark's perspective.

The Gospel of Mark was written by John Mark who wrote to a Gentile audience. This is evident in his explanation of Aramaic expressions and Jewish customs. At the time when Mark wrote his Gospel, Christians were suffering intense persecution at the hands of the Roman Emperor Nero because they were blamed for a fire that destroyed most of Rome. **Mark's purpose for writing his Gospel is to show that Jesus was in fact the Christ, the Son of God.** To the persecuted Christians, faith in the Jesus that Mark presented in His writing, would give them strength

to weather the storms that they faced. Mark begins his Gospel by revealing the two-fold title for Jesus. He writes, **“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”** He also provides two climatic confessions in his Gospel. Jesus asked His disciples, **“Who do you say I am?” Peter declared “You are the Christ” (Mark 8:29).** Also, at Jesus’ crucifixion, the centurion standing by the cross, confessed, **“Truly this Man was the Son of God!” (Mark 15:39).** Mark wanted His audience to know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and if they believed in Jesus, He will save them. Faith in Jesus changes lives.

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus is constantly on the move and a massive crowd is always following Him, to the

point of suffocating Him. Wherever Jesus went, people followed. They knew that He had what they needed. They also knew that He could change their lives forever. Their faith connected with His life-giving power.

Early on in the fifth chapter of Mark, we find Jesus teaching by the Sea of Galilee, when he was approached by Jairus, one of the rulers of the synagogue. Jairus' twelve-year-old daughter had fallen ill and was at the point of death. He came to Jesus begging Him to come and heal his daughter. Jesus went with Jairus in the direction of his house. The crowd whom Jesus was teaching to, also went. And as they walked, more people were added and the crowd got thicker and thicker. And while He moved forward to Jairus' house, a certain

woman was in the crowd. This woman, according to verse 25, had a persistent discharge of blood for twelve years.

Women, I am sure that you can attest that having unpredictable bleeding can be frustrating. Not knowing when you'll bleed, how much you'll bleed or how long you'll bleed can negatively affect your quality of life. It may make you want to stay home or cancel plans you were looking forward to. And if you suffer from an ongoing discharge of blood, your daily life and quality of life are both impacted. Not only that, your mental and emotional state are also affected. I've been there....

Heavy or persistent bleeding can have several effects on a woman's body; which can include anemia, severe

pain, dizziness, weakness, confusion, and shortness of breath.

Because of the woman's issue of blood, she was ritually unclean according to the Mosaic Law. All that she touched became unclean. Everyone who encountered her became unclean. Everything she sat on became unclean. She was dangerous to be around. Her issue impacted not only her, but everyone within reach of her. This woman's social life was also impacted. Her disease isolated, defiled, and degraded her. For twelve long years, this woman lived in a state of defilement. She was excluded from the place of worship. She was excluded from the presence of God. She was excluded from the congregation of the people of God. She had no friends and chances are,

she was separated from her family. Having a relationship with God was near to impossible, because of her impurity.

Is there something that is standing between you and God?

The enemy loves to put obstacles in our way that keeps us separated from God. He used disease to isolate this woman from God. This woman had to endure the pain of separation for twelve years.

Can any one of you identify with her? Have you ever felt cut off from the blessings of God? Have you ever been in a vulnerable?

Moreover, have you endured a time where your weakness became an opening for exploiters to come in and make things worse? This is exactly what happened

to this woman. Mark tells us in verse 26, that the woman with the issue of blood suffered many things from many physicians and never got better, only grew worse. In fact, she spent all that she had...Luke, in his gospel, puts it this way, **“she had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any” (Luke 8:43).** She was not cured of her affliction but became worse and lost all her money. The people who were supposed to have the answer to her 12-year problem, added to the problem. The very people who were supposed to heal her, made her worse and took every dime that she had. She was in a desperate place. She was in a hopeless place. She had no money. She had no family. And she was also dying on the inside. Each day, her life was slipping away. She was in a

truly desperate state. She was at her wits end. **How many of you know what it feels like to be desperate?** Scary, right? For many of us, our desperation drove us straight to Jesus.

We can relate to this woman. In her desperation, she kept searching. One day, she heard about Jesus. She heard about all the things He had done, all the people He had healed, and His many miracles. And she heard, He was in town. She followed in the crowd and made her way toward Jesus, her last hope. The Bible says, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. She believed that if she could just touch the fringe of His garment, she would be made well. It can be assumed that this woman got down on her knees and crawled through

the crowd to touch the tassel of Jesus' cloak. And when she touched Him, power left Him and she was immediately healed. Her faith connected with the life-giving power of Christ. The Bible says,

“immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.” There is a relationship between Jesus' power and our faith.

This woman was looking for a physical healing and received it and began to walk away, **secretly**, but Jesus had something else in mind. Upon feeling power go out of Him, He asked **“Who touched My clothes?”** The crowd was swarming, so chances are, everyone touched His clothes. But only one person's faith connected with

the power abiding in Jesus. The crowd swarmed around Him and pressed into Him, but He only felt the faith of one person. Her faith connected to Him. Jesus looked around to give the woman His full attention. **Her faith brought about a change in position.** Before, she came from behind but now she was face to face with the Saviour. She responded to Jesus' question and gave a public declaration of her faith. According to Luke, **“she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately” (Luke 8:47 NKJV).** Her faith connected with the life-giving power of Jesus. Jesus did not deride her for what she did, instead He said, **“Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of**

your affliction.” Jesus did not just heal this woman physically, but made her whole, spiritually, emotionally and mentally. And He gave her peace that had eluded her for twelve years. He changed her life and gave her a new identity: He called her “daughter.” She was no longer a “certain woman.” She was a daughter. She belonged to Him and He claimed her publicly. By calling her daughter, He invited her into the presence of Almighty God. Faith connected to the power of God, does this.

This woman’s faith and desperation drove her to be a risk taker. Exhibiting faith means you have to take risks.

Under the Law, it was dangerous for this woman to enter any public setting. She risk being put to death when

she reached out and touched Jesus. She had faith that if she touched Him, she would receive the healing she so desperately was seeking. Her faith drove her to take the risk. **She was a risk taker.** **Are you willing to risk it all to connect with Jesus?**

You must have **authentic faith** to connect with the power of Jesus. This woman's faith was not based on any superstitious idea that power was in the fringe or tassel of Jesus' garment. She truly believed that Jesus could heal her. **She had authentic faith.** God responds to authentic faith. Faith moves the hand of God. **Do you have authentic faith?**

She had radical faith. This woman was at her wits end, yet she continued to believe that there was a solution

to her problem. She heard about Jesus and believed in Him. This radical faith went against the hopelessness of her situation and embraced a hope that eclipsed reality.

This extreme faith was unshakeable and unwavering, and it was placed in Jesus. She did not focus on the uncertainty or the adversity of her situation. She focused her faith on Jesus, the only One who was capable and powerful enough to heal her. **Do you have radical faith?**

If you will have faith that will connect to the power of Christ, **you must believe.** **Hebrews 11:6 says, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”** The

woman with the issue of blood believed that by touching the hem of Jesus' garment, she would be healed. She sought His healing and was rewarded by the Saviour. If you seek Him out in faith, He will answer. The crowd did not hinder this woman's faith. She crawled through the thick crowd and got to Jesus. Her faith moved the mountains of challenges that were before her that day. She touched Jesus and was healed. Her faith connected with His life-giving power.

If you have faith that connects to the power of Christ, **you must be persistent.** Persistent faith involves a deep and unwavering trust in God even when you have been facing your situation for a long time. The woman could have thrown in the towel and wait for death to take her.

Her search for a cure did not end when the doctors failed her. Even when lost everything, she never gave up on hope. She kept on searching. Her persistence paid off because she made a divine connection with Jesus and He healed her. **Do you have persistent faith?**

The woman with the issue of blood represents you and me. There may be things in our lives that is isolating us from the presence of God. There may be obstacles that hinder our faith from connecting with the Saviour. But if you touch the Saviour with your faith, you will connect with His life-giving power. The woman touched Jesus and power left Him and she was healed. The power in Jesus responded to her faith.

Pray