What Man is This? Week 3: At The End of Your Rope

Objective: To challenge us to let go of anything that keeps us from holding on to Jesus.

Read together:

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had <u>suffered</u> a great deal under the care of many doctors and had <u>spent all she had</u>, yet <u>instead</u> of getting better <u>she grew worse</u>. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, "If I <u>just touch</u> his clothes, I will be <u>healed</u>." 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

30 At once Jesus realized that <u>power</u> had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "

32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and <u>fell at his feet</u> and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in <u>peace</u> and be <u>freed</u> from your suffering."

Mark 5:24-34

- When you hear of someone being at the 'end of their rope' what comes to mind? What do most people do when they are at the end of their rope?
- The woman that Jesus encountered was so desperate that she was willing to violate social norms and religious law just to have a chance at healing. Have you ever had a situation so desperate that you were willing to try anything to get it taken care of? If you're comfortable, share it with the group.
- Does it strike you as unusual that the woman was healed even though she never asked for it and Jesus wasn't even sure who touched him?
- What does Jesus say was the cause of her healing?
- Use your imagination and try to describe what this woman's life must have been like before and after her encounter with Jesus.
- What did the woman Jesus encountered have to let go of in order to touch Jesus?
- What did the pastor say was a good word to describe letting go?
- Are there things you need to let go of in order to take hold of Jesus?

Final Thoughts: When we are willing to let go of everything to take hold of Jesus, we experience healing and peace.

This Week: Try to identify areas where Jesus has brought you peace that nothing else can.

