

Series: Still Worthy

Title: Daughter

Matthew 9:18-22 While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live."

¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak.

²¹ She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

²² Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

When we read this passage into the word, we see two people that are in need: a daughter of a synagogue leader and a woman who had been subject to bleeding for 12 years.

I want to focus on the woman with the issue of blood.

This passage tells us that when Jesus was on His way to see the daughter of this leader.

A woman who had suffered from bleeding for 12 years approached Jesus, believing if she could only touch his clothes she'd be made well.

Her illness made her ceremonially unclean.

She was not only ceremonially unclean, she was socially unacceptable, and an outcast as she lived with ongoing physical pain.

1. The untouchable woman

Matthew 9:20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak.

To understand this woman, we have to understand her story through the Torah.

Leviticus 15:25-27 "When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge, just as in the days of her period.

²⁶ Any bed she lies on while her discharge continues will be unclean, as is her bed during her monthly period, and anything she sits on will be unclean, as during her period.

²⁷ Anyone who touches them will be unclean; they must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

This verse in the OT describes the ritual implications of a prolonged flow of blood.

Her condition placed her in a state of ritual uncleanness.

This did not necessarily mean that she was morally sinful.

Ritual uncleanness and moral guilt are not the same thing.

But imagine what 12 years of this condition could have meant.

12 years of separation.

12 years of uncertainty.

12 years of wondering who she could touch.

12 years of wondering who could touch her.

12 years of carrying something that had become both a physical and a social burden.

The book of Mark tells us more on this woman.

Mark 5:26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.

She had spent her resources, sought human solutions and yet “instead of getting better, she grew worse.”

She wasn't; merely sick.

She had become isolated by her sickness.

And this explains something important about how she approached Jesus.

She didn't come to the front.

She didn't announce herself.

She didn't ask for attention.

She came behind Him.

Mark 5:27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,

She wanted the miracle without the attention.

She wanted to be healed without being seen.

Perhaps she thought: “I can just touch Him and disappear into the crowd, I can finally be free.”

And that is where many people find themselves.

They have an issue they don't want anymore to know about.

They come to Jesus quietly.

They worship quietly.

They pray quietly.

They don't want anybody asking questions.

They simply want to touch the garment.

But there is something this woman did not yet understand.

Jesus was not interested merely in healing her condition. He was interested in restoring the person behind the condition.

2. Reversed the direction

Matthew 9:21 She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

This is where the story becomes profoundly significant.

Because the Torah established boundaries concerning ritual uncleanness.

Normally, contact with something unclean could make another person ceremonially unclean.

But look at what happens when this woman touches Jesus.

Jesus does not become unclean.

She becomes whole.

This is a powerful picture to who Jesus is.

Her uncleanness does not overpower His holiness.

His holiness overcomes her uncleanness.

This same pattern appears earlier in Matthew.

Matthew 8:2-3 a leper says: "Lord if you are willing, you can make me clean."

Jesus reaches out and touches hi.

The direction of holiness is reversed.

The leper does not contaminate Jesus. Jesus cleanses the leper.

Then the woman with the issue of blood reaches for the payment of Jesus.

Again: the condition does not contaminate Him. His power transforms her.

This points us toward the prophetic hope of Israel.

Malachi 4:2 But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves.

The imagery of "wings" can evoke the corners of extremities of garments, connecting beautifully with the biblical imagery of the tzitzit, the fringes commanded in **Numbers 15:38-39**

The woman reaches for the edge of Jesus garment.

And in Him she encounters the healing presence of the God of Israel.

But then something unexpected happens.

Mark 5:30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

The disciples essentially say, everyone is touching you!

But Jesus knew there was a difference between the touch of the crowd and the touch of faith.

She came looking for healing.

Jesus was about to give her something deeper; AN ENCOUNTER.

3. Identity restored

The greatest miracle was not only what happened to her body, but what Jesus called her.

Luke 8:47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

There is it: she could not go unnoticed. (She was no hid.)

She had wanted to remain anonymous.

Now she was standing before Jesus.

She was trembling.

She confessed everything.

And then Jesus said something that must have pierced 12 years of shame:

"DAUGHTER"

Luke 8:48 Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

This is the climax of the story.

In scripture, family language is covenant language.

God calls Israel His son **Exodus 4:22** Then say to Pharaoh, "This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son,

Isaiah 43:1 But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

The woman had spent 12 years experiencing separation.

Now Jesus publicly speaks belonging over her.

You are not merely the woman with the problem...You belong.

The crowd may have known her condition.

Jesus knew her identity.

The crowd saw an unclean woman.

Jesus saw a daughter.

The crowd saw someone who should keep her distance.

Jesus allowed her to come near.

She came trembling.

He told her to go in peace.

And the word “peace” carries the rich biblical idea of shalom – wholeness, completeness, well-being, restoration.

She came with an issue....she left with identity.

She came hidden...she left known.

She came afraid....she left in peace.

She came reaching for the hem of His garment....she discovered the heart of her Messiah.

The woman came with 12 years of blood. 12 years of shame.

Jesu brought her it not he light, not to embarrass her, but to restore her.

And perhaps that is the word for someone who has been hiding behind their issue.

Your issue may be part of your story but it is not your identity.

The crowd saw the issue...Jesu saw the daughter.