

How Desperate People Turn To Faith

Series: How God Changes Our Attitudes

Have you ever been in a desperate situation?

Desperation is when you feel hopeless, frantic, doomed. You feel like you're on the brink of failure, of giving up hope.

Your situation seems impossible.

What Does The Bible Say?

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. (Mark 5:24–26 NLT)

All of us have scars, however, sometimes the hidden scars are the worst.

How Can You Obey?

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. (Mark 5:27–29 NLT)

Did you turn to Jesus when you ran out of options?

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?” (Mark 5:30 NLT)

Jesus wants more from you than to just help you out of a situation, He wants a relationship.

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. (Mark 5:31–34 NLT)

When God gives you what you ask for, sometimes you feel like you don't deserve it.

34 And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over.” (Mark 5:34 NLT)

Your faith allows you to be in God's family.

Additional Notes:

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Explore:

Today's Deep Dive Into the Bible segment comes from the book Heiser, M. S. (2014). *I Dare You Not to Bore Me with the Bible*. (J. D. Barry & R. Van Noord, Eds.) (pp. 27–28). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press; Bible Study Magazine.

Explore:

Mt. 9:20; Mk. 5:25; Lk. 8:43—Here, we have a story within a story. On the way to help this Ruler, who is very anxious because his daughter is near death, Jesus has to make His way through a large crowd of followers who are hindering His progress through the town to Jairus' house. As He walks, His travel is interrupted by the touch of a woman who also needs His help. This woman has had this bleeding illness for twelve years. This is interesting when it is compared to the ruler's daughter who is twelve years old. There is no known significance to this except that it is interesting coincidence.

Copple, G. M. (1999). Getting to Know Jesus (Vol. 13, p. 49).
Torrence, CA: New Hope Gospel Ministries.

Explore:

She was a bruised reed: “bleeding for twelve years,” “suffered very much,” “spent all the money she had,” and “getting worse.”

A chronic menstrual disorder. A perpetual issue of blood. Such a condition would be difficult for any woman of any era. But for a Jewess, nothing could be worse. No part of her life was left unaffected.

Sexually ... she could not touch her husband.

Maternally ... she could not bear children.

Domestically ... anything she touched was considered unclean.

No washing dishes. No sweeping floors.

Spiritually ... she was not allowed to enter the temple.

She was physically exhausted and socially ostracized.

She had sought help “under the care of many doctors” (v. 26 NIV).

Lucado, M. (1999). He still moves stones. Nashville: Word Pub.

Explore:

The display of God’s power in this text involved two contrasting segments of society. On the one hand it focused on an outcast woman who had been suffering a disastrous hemorrhage for twelve years. The hemorrhage rendered her ceremonially unclean in Jewish society (Leviticus 15:25–27), which meant that she was a transmitter of uncleanness to all who came in contact with her. If she had been married, she was likely now divorced from her husband. She was ostracized from normal society and debarred from worship in the synagogue and Temple. Her desperate situation had driven her to pursue

medical help, and “She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors” (v. 26).

Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior* (Vol. 1, pp. 124–125). Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.

Explore:

The contrast between these two needy people is striking and reveals the wideness of Christ’s love and mercy. Jairus was an important synagogue officer, and the woman was an anonymous “nobody”; yet Jesus welcomed and helped both of them. Jairus was about to lose a daughter who had given him twelve years of happiness (Mark 5:42), and the woman was about to lose an affliction that had brought her twelve years of sorrow. Being a synagogue officer, Jairus was no doubt wealthy; but his wealth could not save his dying daughter. The woman was already bankrupt! She had given the doctors all of her money, and yet none of them could cure her. Both Jairus and the poor woman

found the answers to their needs at the feet of Jesus (Mark 5:22 and 33).

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 1, p. 127). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Explore:

Peter, James and John are Jesus' closest friends. They form an inner group within the Twelve. They are with Jesus when he raises Jairus' daughter to life, as well as on other important occasions. They will be with him on the mountain when he is transfigured in glory—and in the garden of Gethsemane when he is racked with fear. It is thought that Peter in particular passed on his memories to Mark.

Knowles, A. (2001). The Bible guide (1st Augsburg books ed., p. 453). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg.

Question 1 of 5

Is it important how we number the Ten Commandments?

Question 2 of 5

“Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. Faith is the belief that God will do what is right.” How should this change the way you pray? Does it?

Question 3 of 5

Is it true that “faith with no effort is no faith at all?” Please explain your answer.

Question 4 of 5

Share with your HotSpot what the problem was that drove you to Christ.

Question 5 of 5

What is significant about the fact that Jesus called the afflicted woman “daughter?” Does this mean anything for your own relationship with Jesus?