

Summary

In this sermon drawn from Mark chapter 5, the pastor focuses on the story of the woman with the issue of blood and her desperate, faith-filled act of pressing through the crowd to touch the hem of Jesus's garment. After 12 years of suffering, spending all she had on physicians, and being declared ceremonially unclean, this woman refused to give up. She stepped out one more time in faith, believing that if she could just touch the wing of Jesus's prayer shawl, she would be made whole. And she was. The pastor uses her story to challenge believers who feel worn down, bankrupt, or unworthy to press through their circumstances and reach for Jesus one more time. The sermon also highlights the story of Jairus, a synagogue ruler who set aside his religious prestige and position to beg Jesus to heal His dying daughter. Together, these two accounts paint a picture of what radical, desperate faith looks like. The pastor reminds the congregation that our identity is not defined by our past failures or our struggles, but by the redemptive work of Christ. Just as the woman was made clean by touching Jesus, we are made whole when we come to Him in faith. The message is a call to press on, to pray one more time, and to trust that God's supply never runs dry.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for another opportunity to gather in Your name and seek Your face. Lord, as we open Your Word and discuss what You have placed on our hearts, we ask that You quiet every distraction and every doubt. Help each person in this group to be open to what You want to speak into their life today. May Your Holy Spirit guide our conversation, soften our hearts, and draw us closer to You. We do not come with all the answers, but we come trusting that You do. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you tried again after giving up on it the first time, and how did it turn out?

Key Verses

- Mark 5:25-34
- Hebrews 11:1

- Malachi 4:2
- Matthew 17:20

Questions

- The pastor described the woman with the issue of blood as someone who was physically weak, financially bankrupt, and socially isolated. Have you ever been in a season where it felt like everything was working against you at once? How did you respond?
- Jairus was a ruler of the synagogue, a man of religious standing, yet he fell at Jesus's feet and begged for help. What does his willingness to set aside his pride and position teach us about what it means to truly seek Jesus?
- The pastor made the point that we should not let our past define us, saying that once we are born again we are not recovering anything but a redeemed child of God. Do you agree with that perspective? How does the way we identify ourselves affect the way we live out our faith?
- The woman pressed through a crowd of hundreds while she was weak, unclean, and had every reason to stay home. What are some of the crowds or obstacles in your own life that make it hard to press toward Jesus?
- The pastor said that right before God births a blessing in our lives, we often abort it because we lose faith. Can you think of a time when you almost gave up just before a breakthrough? What kept you going, or what do you wish had kept you going?
- Hebrews 11:1 (KJV) says, 'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.' The woman believed she would be healed before she ever touched Jesus. How do you personally cultivate that kind of faith when circumstances look hopeless?
- The pastor pointed out that when the unclean woman touched Jesus, she was not made unclean by her touch. Instead, she was made clean. What does that tell us about the nature of Jesus and His willingness to receive people that society or religion might push away?
- The poem at the end of the sermon described a battered violin that was transformed in value by the touch of a master's hand. In what ways have you seen God take something broken in your life and restore its worth and purpose?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you have given up praying, believing, or pressing forward. It might be a relationship, a personal struggle, a health concern, or a spiritual habit you have let go. Make a decision to bring it before God one more time. Set aside intentional time each day this week to pray

specifically about that area, trusting that God's supply does not run dry and that He is still able to do what only He can do. Come back to your group next week ready to share what happened when you chose to press through one more time.

Key Takeaways

- Desperate faith moves us to action. The woman with the issue of blood had every reason to stay home, but her belief that Jesus could heal her drove her to press through the crowd. True faith is not passive; it presses forward even when circumstances say to stop.
- Our identity is rooted in redemption, not in our past. Once a person is born again, they are no longer defined by their sin, their sickness, or their failures. They are defined as a child of the living God and an heir of His promises.
- God meets us in our weakness. The woman was physically drained, financially ruined, and socially rejected, yet Jesus stopped for her. He called her daughter and declared her whole. God does not require us to have it all together before He responds to our faith.
- We must not abort our blessing right before the breakthrough. The pastor warned that many people give up on God just before He moves. Perseverance in faith, even when it is the size of a mustard seed, is what positions us to receive what God has prepared.
- What religion cannot do, redemption has already done. No system of rules or religious standing could heal the woman. Only a personal encounter with Jesus made her whole. Our wholeness comes not from our performance but from His presence.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for this time together in Your Word. We thank You for the example of a woman who refused to quit, who pressed through her pain and her shame to reach You one more time. We ask that You give each person in this group that same kind of faith. Where we have grown weary, renew our strength. Where we have given up, restore our hope. Where we feel unclean or unworthy, remind us that Your touch makes us whole. May we leave this place not defined by what we have been through, but by who You are and what You have done for us. We trust You with every broken place in our lives, believing that the touch of the Master's hand changes everything. In the name of Jesus, amen.