

HOPE FOR THE HURTING

Encounters with Jesus (3)

Pastor Jerry Clonch, July 22, 2007

Text: MARK 5:24-34

How Can We Have Hope?

A. Jesus never Plays Favorites

“Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, ‘My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.’ So Jesus went with him.” vss. 21-24

“And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.” vs.25

B. Jesus never Expects Perfection

“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. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, ‘If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.’ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.” vss. 26-29

C. Jesus ALWAYS Accepts Genuine Gestures of Faith

“At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, ‘Who touched my clothes?’ ‘You see the people crowding against you,’ his disciples answered, ‘and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.’” vss. 30-34

Discussion/Reflection Questions

1. Of all the people pressing for Jesus’ attention one got through to him in this story. Why?
2. Read verses 25 &26. What impressions do you get of the sick woman?
3. This woman’s illness made her ritually unclean and so unable to have contact with people. What do you think it took for her to touch Jesus?
4. Why was it so important to Jesus that the person who touched him be identified?
5. The woman spent all her money and a great deal of effort to find a solution for suffering. How likely are you to try every other option before you take your problem to God?
6. When do you remember being the most desperate for God’s help? How did Jesus “touch” you?
7. What do you consider to be the worst of the woman’s problems? a) Her physical suffering; b) Spending all her money in vain; c) Being a social outcast; d) Being religiously impure and unable to worship in the temple; E) _____?
8. In what way does this woman most remind you of yourself?
9. What would have caused the woman’s fearful reaction in verse 33?
10. Have you ever felt afraid of what God might say or do to you?
11. What does this passage tell us about Jesus' character?
9. In what situation in your life do you need to heed Jesus' words, "Don't be afraid, just believe"?