

## “A Year with Jesus”

### Week 6, February 7th, Mark 5:21-34

//Mark 5:21-43 is a lengthy healing story that includes a journey for one of the two main characters. The previous week’s devotion looked at the journey for Jairus. This week we examine the unnamed women.

Read Mark 5:21-34 straight through to get the sense of the story.

Story Note: We can’t know the exact medical diagnosis of the women. What’s important is that her bleeding made her unclean according to Jewish law. She is prohibited from touching another person, which would in turn make that person unclean. Touching Jesus represents a bold, defiant act of desperation. Instead of becoming unclean, the touch of Jesus heals.

//Imagining the story

Take time to walk through the story from the perspective of the woman. From the crowd, the touch, the healing, to being found out, and finally being addressed by Jesus, imagine each moment of the interaction.

What resonates with you when looking at the woman’s story?  
What do you see in Jesus as he interacts with this woman?

//In the woman on the road we see someone boldly approach Jesus not in a state of put together cleanliness ready to address him with social decorum, but desperate and imperfect, clinging to hope. Her desperation is highlighted by the note that she has exhausted all human options and has nothing left. Jesus not only receives her, he makes the highly regarded wait (Jairus, a male synagogue leader), while he focusses attention on the one held in low esteem.

Are there moments in your life when you’ve thrown yourself on the mercy of Jesus? Remember and *spend time reflecting* on one of these moments. How were you received by Jesus?

Is there something of desperation in your life that you could approach Jesus with in this moment? If so, bring it to mind, and prepare to offer your prayer.

- Set aside any notions of how we are “supposed” to approach God in prayer.
- Offer your need to God in the model of this woman, boldly placing yourself on the mercy of Jesus.

- Approach Jesus with the confidence that you and your requests are not an interruption, and with trust that he will always pause to listen.

After you’ve offered this prayer, *pause and reflect* on the words of Jesus offered to the woman. Specifically, hear him call her “daughter.” Close your time with God by quietly allowing him to lift you up using the name daughter/son.

Journal your thoughts and consider writing out your prayer of need.