Today, we wrap up our series on the questions Jesus asked. I encourage you to search the scriptures and study other questions He asked while with the disciples and others. Here is the context for today’s question: Jesus has just healed a Geresene demoniac and has crossed back over the Sea of Galilee and is met by a large crowd. Jairus, a synagogue official among the many, falls at His feet and begs Jesus to come heal his twelve-year-old little girl. As He follows Jairus through the crowd, a woman who has suffered twelve years with an issue of blood strives to reach Him. Bankrupt, ceremonially unclean, void of peace, desperate, and lonely, she pushes her way through the mass of people to Jesus.

 Now, Family, listen. For 4380 days this woman had been sick—144 months, 624 weeks, 105,192 hours, 12 years. How hopeless she mush have felt. In fact in this section of scripture, we see three seemingly hopeless situations: a demoniac, a dying and then dead little girl, and a miserable, dying woman. All of us can relate. People in this room today are experiencing a season of despair and hopelessness. I want to encourage you today. Jesus ***already knows*** your need for Him. In the time of the needs told of in Mark, He is not in the region by accident. But I want you to see something: Greater than the ill woman’s need for physical healing is her need for Jesus. You and I, in our desperation, pain, hopelessness, also need Jesus. We need faith enough to push through the crowd, the noise, and the chaos simply, like the bleeding woman, to touch the hem of His garment. She has spent everything she has, pursued every option available, but finally found help in Him. We need to find help in Him, and we must not make Jesus a last resort. We are not somehow interrupting God or bothering the Lord when we press through to get to him! “Well,” we might say, “You don’t understand what I’ve done” or “You don’t understand what I am going through.” To this, I would say, “You don’t understand my Jesus!”

 In Mark 5:34, Jesus addresses the long-sick woman in an especially wonderful way, “Daughter.” He affirms a relationship with her. And THIS is her greatest need! The Bible tells us to draw near to God and He will draw near to you (James 5:5-10\*). Christ offers an open invitation, giving us “greater grace.” His grace is remedy to hopelessness, the remedy for our affliction of sin. There is no need for the long-ill woman to perform sacrifices or rituals. The power of Jesus delivers her (Psalm 46:1\*\*). In our despair and hopelessness, we need Jesus. In or victories and our wins, we need Jesus. Jesus asks, “Who touched me?” not because He needs information (HE knows who!), but because the sick woman needs transformation. She needs to and does testify to what has happened. Church, listen. All of her life, this healed woman will remember this moment. When despair threatens to overcome her world, she hears the words of the One who makes her whole: “Daughter.” And as believers, we have the same assurance of His caring for us (Psalm 45:5\*\*\*). We all have similar moments when God comes through. We see in them the completeness of the authority of Christ, the whole of His love and mercy.

The woman of this story is an outcast because of her condition. We don’t even know her name. Her condition, her place in society, her desperateness—none of it places limits on God’s response to her needs. Christ is not influenced in his willingness

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\*James 4:5-10

5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

\*\*Psalm 46:1

1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

\*\*\*Psalm 43:5

5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

to display mercy and compassion. In this NT tale, we see a little girl twelve years old, the daughter of a synagogue official, and an outcast, bankrupt woman suffering for twelve years from a blood condition—both encountering the complete grace and compassion from the complete God, His power and authority on display. Christ’s grace and power are accessed because the girl’s father, Jairus, asks in faith, and the nameless woman pushes through the crowd, driven by faith. Life no longer flows out of the woman but flows into her. She is now fully alive and free to live in peace—given a new identity, “daughter.” Family! We do not need to be afraid to reach out to Jesus. We don’t have to fear when we reach out in biblical obedience. We can tell our God about all of our pain, fear, shame, suffering, and sorrow. Nothing will surprise Him. Our God is not distant or uncaring. Perhaps, our instinct is to follow the crowd. We are pretty close, going with the flow. But look at the difference “pressing in” makes. “If I can just touch Him,” says the desperate, ill woman, her faith bold and without fear of rejection. And HE already knows! Matthew 6:8 tells us, “Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” What a comfort! We need not fear intimacy of being vulnerable and honest about our needs. In obedience, we can go before our Lord, who will give a greater grace, full of love and compassion. God calls us to himself! We can press in to touch Him utterly without fear of rejection, no matter who we are.

Biblical Passages Supporting This Message

Isaiah 55:6-7

6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Mark 5:21-34

21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He 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.” 24 So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 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. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. 30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” 31 “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ” 32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”