

Laying Claim to Deliverance

The last time I shared God's Word with you we read a record of deliverance in which Jesus reached out and touched somebody. Today I would like to read a record of deliverance in the gospels where somebody reached out and touched Jesus. As with the previous teaching, it is a simple thing to read but when we do so with spiritual perception and awareness there is a lot of valuable information for us to profit from.

This event can be found in Matthew 9:20 – 22; Mark 5:24 – 34 and Luke 8:43 – 48. While will be concentrating on the account given in Mark, it is beneficial to consider all three passages using "scripture build-up" or "narrative development". By comparing all three, we can read complementary information to get the clearest possible picture of what occurred.

Mark 5:21 – 24

We will start a few verses before the account that we are looking at to get an idea of what is going on. Jesus had made a brief visit to the other side of the Sea of Galilee and has now returned. One of the synagogue rulers has asked him to come and lay hands on his little daughter who is gravely ill and Jesus agrees. As they proceed, a group of people (much people) are following along and thronging Jesus. One version uses the word "jostling". There were a lot of people pressing closely upon him as he made his way to Jairus' house. Understanding the culture of these lands and times, we know that this group of people thronging Jesus would be all (or certainly mostly) men. That will be important to remember as this incident develops.

Mark 5:25, 26

Here is this poor woman who has had this physical problem now for 12 years. She has done everything that she could to get the problem resolved but nothing has worked. Some people will read verse 26 as an indictment of the medical community and use it as a pretext to criticize medical practitioners. But this verse is not a criticism; it is an acknowledgement that the practice of medicine, like all human endeavors, is limited. Even today, with all of the advancements that have

been made, if you talk to almost anyone in the medical field, they will know of patients that should have responded to treatments, but did not. They will know of patients that responded to treatments far faster and better than anticipated. They will know of people who died when they should have lived. People that lived when they should have died. Like all areas of human endeavor, the practice of medicine is limited.

Mark 5:27, 28

A key phrase is “when she had heard of Jesus”. Nobody ever comes to Jesus unless they have heard of Jesus. Even in the new birth experience – which we would all agree is the minimum Christian experience – if you are going to confess Jesus as lord and believe that God raised him from the dead you will have heard something about Jesus. Now we can look previously in the Gospel of Mark to see what she may have heard.

Mark 1:21 – 28

Mark 1:32 – 34

Mark 1:44, 45 (this is the leper we read about a few weeks ago)

Mark 3:7 – 12 people pressed just to touch him

Mark 4:19, 20

Having read all this, we can certainly see why this woman just wanted to get to Jesus to touch the hem of his garment. By the way, she did not tell everyone that she knew about her intentions. The Gospel of Matthew tells us she said this within herself. She simply made up her mind after what she had heard.

When we read that she “came in the press behind and touched his garment”, we want to remember that Jesus was surrounded by a crowd comprised of men. And they were packed in tightly pressing upon Jesus. It would have been easy for her to be discouraged since she had been living with this issue for 12 years. It would have been easy to get intimidated by the thought of pushing her way through this crowd of men. It would have been easy to give up because it was too difficult to attempt. But she did not quit, give up or get intimidated.

Mark 5:27 – 29

Mark 5:30, 31

All information comes to the mind by way of the five senses. You either hear it, see it, smell it, taste it or touch (feel) it. That is how our bodies transmit information to our minds via the nervous system. When a person receives holy spirit, that spirit is all in all of them. There is not a little space in between the liver and the spleen and that is where holy spirit fits in. No. That gift of holy spirit is all through you. You may have heard it said “eyes behind your eyes, hands behind your hands, etc.” Throughout the Church Epistles, this gift of holy spirit is referred to as an inner man. So, when the Father wants to give us information and instructions via the revelation manifestations, God, Who is spirit, teaches His creation in you which is now your spirit. Your spirit – which is all through you – gets that information to your mind in the same way that your physical body does, via the five senses. That information hits your mind and you KNOW. It isn’t primarily important how the information is received, the important point is that you get it and that you KNOW. It is not guessing. It is not your imagination. It is revelation information given by God to you so that you are aware. Here in verse 30, Jesus must have felt something by revelation because he knew in himself that virtue (*dunamis*) had gone out of him.

Jesus stopped and began to look around and asked “Who touched my clothes?” The disciples of course pointed out the impossibility of the question “who touched me?” because there was a whole crowd of people pressing upon him and jostling him. But Jesus KNEW someone had by revelation.

Mark 5:32

This is a point where scripture build-up helps us to more fully understand the scene. Here in Mark we read that Jesus began looking about to see her, to see a woman. Remember that it is a crowd of men around him. The account in Luke tells us that the woman saw that she was not hid. When you put the two accounts together, we get a clearer picture. In this crowd of men, Jesus begins looking around for a woman and must have seen her. The woman must have seen Jesus looking at her and realized he knew what she did.

Mark 5:33, 34

It is interesting to note that Jesus said “thy faith (*pistis*, believing) hath made thee whole and think about what her believing consisted of. She had heard things about Jesus, so she had certain information about him and things he had done. What she heard about him caused her to say within herself that if I can just touch his clothes I will be healed. She did not let 12 years of failure discourage her. She did not let the difficulty of pushing through a crowd of men intimidate her.

And we saw the precision and sureness of the revelation manifestations. In the midst of a crowd pressing upon him and jostling him, when Jesus had that revelation information, he KNEW.

All in all, it is quite a record and we can learn a lot from it.