

### **Mark 5:24-34**

*“And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus, and came up behind Him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, “If I touch even His garments, I shall be made well.” And immediately the hemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in Himself that power had gone forth from Him, immediately turned about in the crowd, and said, “Who touched my garments?” And His disciples said to Him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” And He looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had been done to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before Him, and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”*

I stated a couple weeks ago about a time when our daughter Marie and I went to the DMV what turned out to be three separate trips all for the same thing, to get her an identification card as she was going to Mexico with another family. When we were finally making progress the teller was asking Marie various questions. One of which was, “Do you wish to be an organ donor?” To which Marie was quick to reply “No!” When the teller looked up as Marie answered rather quickly and matter of factly Marie added “she needed her organs,” I then explained they were not taking them until she died, to which she replied, “Well they can have them then I won’t need them anymore.”

We hear about organ donors and/or organ transplants all the time these days. What do you think is the most sought after organ in the body? It’s the skin. Most do not even realize or see the skin as an organ, but it is none the less. The skin sends messages of heat and cold, pain and pleasure, and even love and hate. Our skin keeps us in touch with ourselves, with others, as well as with the world in which we live. Our skin is sensitive to one important thing ... *touch*. Touch plays an important part of our everyday lives.

In our passage this morning, before we reached where we read; Jesus had just crossed the Sea of Galilee, and a large crowd met Him when he arrived on shore. One of the synagogue leaders named Jarius had come. When he saw Jesus, he immediately fell to his knees before Jesus and he begged Jesus; *“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 Jarius and on the way is where we are this morning.

A woman who had suffered a condition of hemorrhaging for 12 long years had heard about this Jesus and went to see Him. After everything she had been through these past 12 years with doctors and such, this woman heard about Jesus and the miracles He had done. So she thought to herself, *“If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed.”* She didn't believe she needed to speak with Jesus; she didn't believe she had to accept Him; she believed if she could just touch His clothes she would be healed. The moment she touch Jesus' robe her hemorrhaging stop, she was healed. But at the same time this woman was healed Jesus felt healing power leave Him. Jesus turned and looked around asking *“Who touched Me?”* His disciples asked “Who touched you? Are you kidding; look around, we are surrounded by people,

everybody is touching you.” Jesus asked again, “*Who, touched Me?*” This time the woman came forward in fear, but she came forward none-the-less. Jesus saw her and heard her, and then He said “*Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.*”

What I would like to focus on this morning is the power of touch. People have often felt touch and believed it could be a source of healing. Some hospitals today even have classes on touch and the healing it possesses. Since our son, who is now 31, was old enough to understand; every time he came crying to me with a hurt I would lay my hand on his boo boo and say “Lord in your holy name make it better, Amen.” Kevin would stop crying and run off and continue playing.

One day this form of healing was severely tested. I came home from work with a migraine headache. All I wanted to do was lie down, put a cool cloth across my forehead and close my eyes. As I lay down Kevin came in my room and asked me if I would go outside with him and play with his trucks. I told him “daddy had a bad headache and needed to rest.” He left but came back what seemed like minutes later and asked the same question. I repeated to him about my headache and needing to rest. This went on three

or four more times. Then it happened, Kevin walked in and as began to sit up Kevin slammed his hand against my forehead which almost forced my eyes to pop out of my head, and in a loud voice said “Lord in your holy name make daddy better, Amen.”

Kevin then said “It’s all better now daddy can we go out and play now?” I now had a decision to make. I could continue to lay there and show my son that God does not really heal; or I could get up and go outside and play with him proving God heals. Yes, I got up and went outside and played trucks with my son. Not long after going out with my son my headache went away.

Kevin believed without a doubt that placing his hand on my forehead and saying those words would make me better. The woman from our passage this morning believed without a doubt all she needed to do was just touch Jesus’ clothes and she would be healed. But to touch Jesus’ clothes this woman had to overcome many challenging obstacles. What obstacles? First, she was a woman and considered second class and was not allowed to be up front around the men.

Second obstacle, she had a bleeding condition and was considered unclean and could not be around anyone. Also, being unclean she was required by law to call out 'unclean, unclean' as she neared anyone.

This woman had suffered from her disease for 12 years, so most people probably already knew she was unclean. She was probably weak from a constant loss of blood, and to have to pushing her way through the crowd had to be an enormous strain on her already depleted energy level. People were probably yelling at her to get away. In her condition she could have been brought before the authorities and charged with a crime. But despite all these obstacles this woman pressed on toward her goal.

Every one of us faces obstacle in our lives, some big some small, but obstacles none the less. Every one faces major obstacles trying to live every day for God, the question for us is, "Will we work around these obstacles attempting to avoid them as much as possible or will we move forward facing these obstacles, working on these obstacles, and ultimately overcoming these obstacles and evidentially living for God?"

God sent Jesus as an example for us to live by. While on this earth Jesus touched many people and allowed Himself to be touched. But to be able to touch Jesus and/or be touched by Him those people had to be close to Him; we **MUST** be **CLOSE** to Him to touch and/or be touched by Him. It is impossible to serve God, it is impossible to with God from a distance. To be close we all need determination, more than determination we need faith.

Last week we heard of those, especially Sampson who wasted his life on selfish desires. Sampson's parents started out with a close relationship with God but then they allowed themselves to be detoured by their self-centered selfish son. We have heard about how our attitude affects our relationship with God. Remember, your attitude affects your altitude. Attitude is everything.

Eric woke up in the hospital following a devastating accident. He had a broken neck and other traumatic injuries. When Eric was able to speak he asked his doctor what his chances were of ever walking again. His doctor was straight forward with Eric.

He told him people with similar injuries had about 5% chance of ever walking again. Eric closed his eyes and thought on the doctor's answer; Eric opened his eyes and said to the doctor "5% percent? I'll take it!"

With the doctor's 5% percent in one hand and God's hand in the other Eric believed with unflinching faith that he would walk again. To make a long story short, Eric is alive walking and living in Ontario Canada today. Attitude, your attitude will affect your determination, your attitude will affect your faith. Your attitude will affect whether or not you can touch and/or be touched by God.

You can choose to sit back and do nothing believing doing nothing and holding back is better than not achieving. You can choose to do nothing and just be one of the crowd. Remember the crowd in our passage? All they did was get in the way and make things difficult for the woman to reach Jesus. Is that what you want to do, is just be one of the crowd and make it difficult for those around you the reach Jesus?

Scripture never really says the crowd did anything but walk behind Jesus. Is that what we want to do is just walk around and be kind of close to Jesus? I know I don't; I don't want to be just in the area I want to be close; I

want to be close enough to feel His presence; I want to be close enough to hear anything He has to say; I want to be close enough to reach out and touch Him if I need and/or want to.

Once you receive the touch from Him you will never be the same and those around you will be changed as well. How many people could be touched if you overcame obstacles and became more than just one of the crowd? It was July 1, 1885 when Edward Kimble felt the tugging of the Spirit to share his faith with a young shoe salesman he knew. At first Kimble saw an obstacle, unsure if he should talk to the man, but he finally found his courage and went into the shoe store. There Kimble found the salesman in the back room stocking shoes, and he began to share his faith with him. As a result, the young shoe salesman prayed and dedicated his life to Jesus Christ that day. That shoe salesman's name was Dwight L. Moody, and he became the greatest evangelist of his generation.

Several years later a pastor and well-known author by the name of Frederick B. Meyer heard Moody preach. Meyer was so deeply stirred by Moody's preaching that he himself embarked on a far-reaching evangelistic ministry.

Once when Meyer was preaching, a college student named Wilbur Chapman dedicated his life to Christ as a result of his presentation of the gospel.

Chapman later employed a young baseball player to help him prepare to conduct an evangelistic crusade. That ballplayer, who later became a powerful evangelist himself, was Billy Sunday.

In 1924 a group of businessmen invited Billy Sunday to hold an evangelistic campaign in Charlotte, North Carolina, which resulted in many people coming to Christ. Out of that revival meeting a group of men formed a men's prayer group to pray for the world. They also prayed for Charlotte to have another great revival. God sent another evangelist named Mordecai Hamm. Hamm went to Charlotte in 1934 to hold a crusade. Ham's crusade went well, even though it did not have many converts. On one of the last nights under the big tent one tall, lanky young man walked up the aisle to dedicate his life to Christ. That man's name was Billy Graham.

How many lives has Billy Graham touched? We are all who we are and where we are because people along the line touched us. Many doubt they have anything or could do anything which could touch someone so to make a difference. Remember George Baily in "It's A Wonderful Life?" He saw how his life touched and affected some many others.

I challenge everyone here this morning to reach out and touch someone. The woman from our passage was healed because she pushed past the obstacles in her life. I challenge you to push past the obstacles in your life keeping you from touching others. Are you ready to take the risk and push through the crowd to reach Jesus? Remember, it's all about the touch, His touch.