

I. PRESS, REACH, BELIEVE – LUKE 8: 43-48; 11:9-10

Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. 45 And Jesus said, “Who touched Me?” When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, “Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’ ” 46 But Jesus said, “Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.” 47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. 48 And He said to her, “Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.” Luke 8:43-48

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Luke 11:9-10

- A. This healing is a very dramatic one in the transitional season of Jesus and his disciples. This healing takes place as Jesus is about to send out the disciples. It would also represent the first time Jesus did not invoke the blessing of healing via prayer.
- B. For the woman who was healed, much more than her body was healed that day.
- C. Ostracized by her own culture she was forced into a vagabond lifestyle traveling from town to town hiding her ailment so she wouldn't have to face a new round of rejection in order to see another doctor who took money from her while leaving her unhealed.
- D. Like the rest of Jewish culture she waited on the coming of Messiah in a very special way. She had taken hold of Malachi's prophecy in Mal. 4:2a that Messiah, titled The Sun of Righteousness, would have healing in “his wings” (the tassels of his prayer shawl – tallit).
But to you who fear My name, The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings...
- E. The woman had come to know several things about the law through the years of her affliction.
 - 1. She was considered ceremonially unclean and could not live in the community. She had to separate herself as one “unclean”. She was an outcast living like a vagabond.
 - 2. Only the priest could pronounce her clean and restore her to the community.
 - 3. Messiah was not considered a priest by the culture. He was a mighty general and king but not a priest.
 - 4. Women in the culture did not “initiate” with men, it was men who took the first step.
- F. The Sun of Righteousness is a very particular title for Messiah. It symbolically spoke of Isa. 60 and the dawning of a new day in Israel's history. The belief was that when Messiah, The Sun of Righteousness came, everything would change.

- G. This woman's need went beyond just the work of the priest. She needed Messiah but was this man Jesus the Messiah.
- H. She had to **PRESS**.
1. In order to get what she was believing for on the day she was healed she had to "break the religious laws and traditions."
 2. She had to press past her internal fears and stumbling blocks.
 3. She was exhausted of the labels and rejection, the traveling from one doctor to another losing all her money.
 4. As she pressed in toward Jesus she would no longer be hidden.
- I. She had to **REACH** and **TOUCH** him
1. A woman touching a man? Unthinkable.
 2. If this man is a prophet I will get healed.
- J. She **BELIEVED** she would be healed and then she would know
1. If this man was 'The Sun of Righteousness' then everything would change that day. If he were Messiah, then he was worth following the rest of her days.
 2. If I touch his "wings" then He is Messiah and worthy of all my devotion, all my love, all my limited resources and everything will change. It will be like a new day dawning.
 3. Her faith put a draw on his power that day. It was her faith that drew it out of him like drawing water from a well.
 4. "I want to be healed, I need to be healed, I am exhausted, if He is who they say he is, everything will change today, not just my body."

II. WHAT WAS RESTORED THAT DAY?

- A. I believe that Jesus to telling us that The Sun of Righteousness is coming. So many exhausted with "doing life." Jesus wants to bring a fresh release of the sunshine of God's love.
- B. What changed that day and what does Jesus want to do with CFG, Calgary, AB and Canada.
1. She was healed physically because of her faith and she was restored to **authentic relationship**. She was no longer outcast, no longer a vagabond living outside the culture while walking in it. Her life was now restored, reconnected and now counted – she mattered.

2. Her faith revealed Jesus to be The Sun of Righteousness – The Messiah. From that moment the culture ***shared a higher purpose and vision***. Now the culture knew what the disciples knew, Messiah had come.
 3. Her faith had initiated that day. Everyone now knew you didn't have to wait, but that partnership with Messiah was available. There was a new ***exchange*** taking place between God and man. This ***reciprocity*** was dual purposed. God empowering man to represent God. God wanted to partner with man, and man needed empowerment from God. Both God and man needed one another's "yes".
- C. I believe Jesus is offering CFG understanding and vision through this story. In this community of faith Jesus wants:
1. ***Authentic relationships*** – breaking the orphan vagabond spirit that drives isolation.
 2. ***Shared Higher Purpose/Vision*** – what are we about not just what am I about.
 3. ***Reciprocity*** – a new type of relational and ministerial exchange. A new wineskin. How can I help empower your yes before God.