

RECEIVING AND ENJOYING GOD'S BEST IN A CROWD

Mark 5:25-34

Our text described how a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years, who had exhausted all her earnings and savings on medical treatment but grew worse, pushed through the crowd and touched the hem of the garment of Jesus. While coming to Jesus, she had kept saying to herself that if only she could touch His garment, she shall be healed. She did and she was healed. Her encounter formed the focus of the ministration today as we consider these subtopics:

1. The crowded world and the crowded church
2. The faith of a lonely seeker
3. Divine-human connection transforming life

1. The crowded world and the crowded church

Mark 5:24, 30.31

Jesus crossed Galilean lake from the eastern side where He had healed a demoniac on the west. On coming to Galilean side of the lake, a large crowd welcomed Him. They were happy to see Him. It was a large crowd of pushing, jostling and shoving people. In that crowd is a sick weak woman who needed healing. I don't know where you are right now; but believe it Jesus can touch you where you are. He is touching you RIGHT NOW!

As we step back to look at a cross section of the people in the crowd, we see in it a cross section of today's world and the church. The crowd which surrounded Jesus are made up of all kinds of people – the disciples, curious seekers and spectators, sinners, unbelievers, synagogue attendees and rulers, religious leaders, publicans, Pharisees, unbelievers, lawyers, friends and enemies, the sick, the desperate, the poor, the rich, indigenes and foreigners, immigrants, realists and scientists, the doubters and scorners, the sarcastic and the presumptuous, sincere, obedient and faithful followers, traitors and betrayers like Judas Iscariot, parents, children, families, neighbours, brothers and sisters. They pressed and pushed, bumping into Him and into one another.

We find in this crowd a reflection of life and struggles in the world and perhaps the picture of a congregation of church people who gather to hold services, crusades, prayer meeting, Bible study, vigil, revival etc. The world is a pushing, jostling and shoving place and in it, it is sometimes difficult to get a space to stand. It is sometimes difficult in a large gathering for the disadvantaged and underprivileged to get noticed. Unfortunately too, sometimes church services are like that. The good news is that Jesus notices everyone who comes to His meeting; that much we learn from our text. Therefore, when we come to such a meeting, we must come with faith and focus; otherwise, we might come with nothing and go home with nothing.

2. The faith of a lonely seeker

Mark 5:27-29, Mark 11:22-24

The account of what happened to the woman with issue of blood in our text shows that she came prepared. Christ confessed that her faith saved and healed her. The seed of that faith was her thought before beginning her journey to where Christ was. She heard about Jesus and was determined to get to Him and touch the hem of His cloth. Her faith broke through three remarkable barriers:

- i. The effect of worsening health and disease condition Mark 5:26
- ii. The restriction imposed by Jewish law Leviticus 15:19-31, Haggai 2:11-13
- iii. The wall of crowd which surrounded Jesus Mark 5:27

Many people who by determination are able to overcome barriers imposed by distance, rowdy crowd, unbelief, and fears or worries are touching Christ and Christ is still touching today Hebrews 13:8. They are living lives of impact in the world. If it is happening to others; why not you? All you need to do as we are connected is to set a time to your miracle like this woman did. At the set time, before a final amen, you will discover that your miracle is right there by your side.

3. Divine- human connection transforming life

Mark 5:27, 29 – 30.

This woman with bleeding problem went through twelve years of horror, pains, frustrations, disappointments, organ damage, body aches, weakness and embarrassment. In just one day, with one little touch and connection with Jesus, all her problems vanish. This woman touched Jesus and something happened in her body. She knew it, the Lord knew it too. She felt it in her body. Jesus testified about it too, that power flowed from His body into hers. She left in peace, with the peace of God in her heart and life. She was permanently transformed. It can happen to you. Every time you come to a meeting like this or connect with a meeting like this, come with faith and focus. Waves and currents of God's supernatural power hover over believers' gatherings and are transmitted across lands to distant places to change men's situation and transform lives. You will be touched and transformed today in Jesus name!

Jesus promised to make His presence felt in the meeting of believers -

- i. When and where we congregate in His name Mathew 18:18-20
- ii. When we preach and teach what He commanded Mathew 28:18-20
- iii. When and where we live and walk in obedience to His word John 14:23
- iv. Where and when we practice godliness and contentment Hebrews 13:5-6

We touch Him by our earnest prayers Mathew 14:30, saintly thoughts 2 Samuel 7:1-3, 12-16, dedicated service Daniel 6:20-22, affectionately caring for others in His name

Proverbs 19:17 and by commitment to regular and consistent fellowship with God and His people John 20:19 – 20. To such a place and at the appointed time, we should come with faith and focus. There is a way in which every fellowship we attend could be special and change our lives. I invite you to that way tonight. Stand up and stand out, don't get lost in the crowd. Touch Jesus personally and let Him touch you; do it **RIGHT NOW!**

We must recognize the possibility of transfer of divine grace, spiritual power and healing virtues by believers and ministers' touch directly or contact with items or materials that had been in contact with their bodies Mark 16:17-18, Acts 19:12 or by their prayers James 5:14,16. But like the case of this woman with bleeding problems, personal faith expressed by recipients of miracle is very important.

Finally, this woman openly shared her testimony with others; she did not keep it to herself. It is obvious from Luke 8:45-48, that Jesus expected those who benefitted from His healing power to tell the story. Your testimony may well be what someone else needed to receive and give his own. The fundamental nature of the Christian faith is that of experience and enjoyment of the supernatural.

Brothers and sisters, we live in challenging times, problems and difficulties are increasing in the world but by connecting with God and operating by the principles of dynamics of faith which we learn today, we can live and walk daily in the supernatural anywhere, anytime. That is what God wanted for us. That is what Christ promised. Therefore, wherever you are, believe and receive **RIGHT NOW!** Receive healing, receive strength, receive provisions, receive help, receive solution, receive deliverance, receive power, receive grace, and receive life of abundance that the Lord promised; receive in the name of **JESUS!** Let your faith work for you as it did for the woman with issue of blood!

Prayer points – That

1. God will increase our faith to receive from him notwithstanding distance, time or pressure of crowd or noise around us
2. God will give us a kind of faith that can establish personal connection with Christ anywhere, anytime
3. We will manifest a kind of faith that can overcome years of trouble, trials and travails as we pray right now!
4. Time, distance or any prevailing circumstance will not hinder us from enjoying God's blessings at fellowship time
5. Every hindrance to our healing and deliverance will be removed right now!
6. We will touch Jesus and Jesus will touch us right now!
7. Like the woman with issue of blood, we will feel the touch of Christ in our body, soul and spirit right now!

8. We will bear clear testimony to God's faithfulness to His promise on salvation, healing and deliverance

May God hear and answer our prayers – AMEN!