

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalm 30

*I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up. (v1)*

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty & merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm & danger, that we may live & grow in faith & hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Mark 5:24b-34

<sup>24b</sup>And a large crowd followed [Jesus] & pressed in on him. <sup>25</sup>Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. <sup>26</sup>She had endured much under many physicians, & had spent all that she had; & she was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>She had heard about Jesus, & came up behind him in the crowd & touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup>for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."<sup>29</sup>Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; & she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup>Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd & said, "Who touched my clothes?"<sup>31</sup> And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" <sup>32</sup>He looked all around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear & trembling, fell down before him, & told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, & be healed of your disease."

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Review *Leviticus 15:25-30* (no automatic moral stigma is attached to designation of impure/unclean). This woman's designation of impurity, the need to separate her & the things she has touched, & her exclusion from the temple system have persisted for 12 years. How does Jesus overcome her status rather than be overcome by it? See *Mark 7:14-23, 14:58; John 2:18-22; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Small Catechism: Creed, 2 SC available < bookofconcord.org >*
2. How does Jesus turn the tables, so to speak, on the crowd? That is, what is the crowd most likely expecting Jesus, the powerful Rabbi, to do? See *Mark 2:1-11, 7:24-30, 12:13-17; Luke 7:36-50; John 4:1-15, 27, 8:1-11;*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. When Jesus says "your faith has made you well (v34)" he doesn't mean the woman caused her own healing by some inward power of her own. Her faith is that which trusts in Jesus to receive his good gifts. How is her faith like your own- especially as you consider the sacraments? See *SC: Baptism, Office of Keys, Lord's Supper*
4. Allow one of your personal failings to stand in for the woman's disease. Name 12 ways you sought remedies that didn't help, wasting your time & resources. What difference does bringing it- in faith & repentance- to Jesus make? Make use of the Office of the Keys, see #3 above. By the way, it involves a healing touch, too.

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. It's difficult for our culture to grasp the details of the Old Testament *tumah/taharah* (clean/unclean) system, so we'll fudge & use our term "outcast." Who among the neighbors you deal with regularly (at home/work/school) are 1) outcasts from your preferred group or are 2) people you are embarrassed by that you could introduce to your friend Jesus? He's not going to "fix" them according to your sensibilities, but he just might heal you both!
6. *Matthew 15:34-36 (cf. Luke 6:19)* has a similar episode. What do you think is the contemporary equivalent in your neighborhood of "touching Jesus' garment for healing?" How could you help make this happen with your congregation in your community?

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Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Power of God

06.27.21

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

To Heal

*An intimate healing encounter, God's power comes through human touch*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."  
Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; & she felt in her body that she was  
healed of her disease. (vv28-29)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death &  
brought life & immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10)

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