**Mark 5 - woman and Jairus daughter**

May I speak in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen, please sit down.

12 years, 12 years she’s been like this, 12 years of her life and those of her family too. Her husband, unable to go to the Synagogue, because of her, he too was unclean. Their money all gone, spent on doctors and medicines, 12 years, her children ostracized at school “your mother is unclean keep away from us”. 12 years, she wasn’t sure how much longer she could go on for. 12 years, seemed like a lifetime, 12 years

I am blessed because I do not suffer with long-term health issues, do you? Living with a long-term illness is difficult to understand until you go through it yourself.

Do you think she felt hopeless, desperate, and worn down at times?

All of her efforts for the last 12 years have been useless, she was weary and feeling hopeless, and then.... She found hope in Jesus!

This woman had heard all news going on about Jesus. The next time He was in the area, she followed the crowds that followed Him.

Let us take a couple of minutes to consider her story and what it has to teach us all. I think there are three lessons here:

1. There is a lesson here about how faith works,

2. A lesson about not giving up,

3. and a lesson about staying focused on your goal.

We read how she mingled and pushed through the crowd, she reached out and touched Jesus’s cloak confident that he could heal her.

Another important lesson we can learn from the woman is that Jesus is there for us, He is waiting. He is right there, waiting for us to Reach out.

Mark 5: 34 tells us Jesus says, “Daughter your faith has made you well”. Jesus sees her as a daughter. Her faith had healed her in many ways.

This woman who has been isolated and outcast for 12 years is called a daughter by Jesus. This reminds me that I am part of his family too and He knows me! When I come to Him with my “issue” whatever that might be, I am reminded that He has touched my life and that I am not alone.

This woman had exhausted every avenue of healing afforded and available to her but then she meets the true healer, Jesus. When we reach out and touch Him in faith, He knows.

Jesus said, “who touched me?” because power had gone out of Him. The disciples are stunned. They say what do you mean who touched you? Everyone has touched you, look people are crowding around you, of course people are touching you

But, this is amazing…Jesus knows when someone reaches out in faith to touch Him. He knows.

According to the law (Leviticus 15) excessive blood flow made a woman ceremonially unclean. Any furniture she touched was unclean as well. If other people touched anything that she had touched, they would be unclean too. This woman was very alone. No one would have wanted to be around her. She shouldn’t go out in public. Twelve years is a long time to be quarantined!

According to the Law, anything, or anyone she touched became unclean as well. The fact that she was in the crowd pressing around Jesus means that each person who bumped into her would have become unclean, too—including Jesus. But, after twelve years of suffering, she was desperate for a miracle. “

Not only was she considered unclean, but she probably felt it as well, having to deal with the logistics of trying to have clean clothes and linens for twelve years.

She had tried to get well. She had gone to many doctors over the years. She spent everything she had trying to be cured. But, nothing worked, she was tired, worn out, and intensely lonely, and she was also desperate, she was desperate for healing. So much so that she didn’t worry about what other people would think or at least she didn’t let her worries stop her.

She also had great hope that Jesus’ power could heal her. Jesus isn’t afraid of the supposed uncleanliness that disease may bring.

As soon as the woman touched Jesus, her bleeding stopped, and she knew she’d been healed. In an instant, Jesus does what no doctor in twelve years had been able to. This illustrates an important point about Jesus and the Law. The woman did not make Jesus unclean—He made her clean!

Jesus didn’t have to acknowledge the woman. Her faith to touch the hem of his garment was enough to heal her.

It seems that he wanted to look her in the eye, He wanted to acknowledge that she didn’t have to suffer anymore. She was free.

Physical healings don’t always happen but sometimes they do. So, ask and keep on asking with the faith and determination and even when there isn’t physical healing, there will always be a healing within, and thank God for this and He will say, “Child, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

What wonderful, good news this is.

And let’s not forget, the story of this woman takes place within a larger story. Jesus is on his way to a Synagogue leader’s house to heal his dying daughter (see [Mark 5:21–24](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%205.21%E2%80%9324)) when our unnamed, but now familiar, woman causes an interruption to His progress.

Jesus could have healed the woman and kept on walking to His original destination. Only He and the woman would have known what had taken place. But He didn’t do that. Jesus stopped what He was doing and acknowledged the result of this woman’s faith: her complete and instantaneous healing.

But what of Jairus daughter? Jesus was on his way to see her at the request of Jairus when the woman touched him, Jesus then stopped and spent time with the woman.

Jairus was a Synagogue official, by definition a Pharisee.

Conversely, Pharisees probably prevented the woman, and her family entering the Synagogue and kept them away from social gatherings. These same Pharisees were often disapproving of Jesus.

But not all of them. Jairus obviously believed that Jesus would heal his daughter. What’s more, he must have believed that Jesus would agree to do so if asked. But as a Synagogue official, he needed more than belief to approach Jesus. He needed humility and courage to face criticism from his peers.

So he acted. He not only approached Jesus but fell at his feet and pleaded.

Like the woman, he too was desperate, and like the woman who had been suffering for 12 years, Jairus daughter was 12 years old.

I wonder, for 12 years for the woman seemed like a lifetime but the 12 years with his daughter probably felt like a blink of an eye to Jairus.

As Jairus expected, Jesus headed toward his house without hesitation. Jesus had already been surrounded by a large crowd, and everyone went along.

Then came the interruption.

An unnamed woman chose that moment to exercise her own faith. Jesus stopped and gave her his undivided attention for what must have seemed eternity to Jairus.

Jairus had no choice but to listen to every word as well, He must have listened with rising distress about his daughter. Precious time was passing while this woman told all about a long illness and no help from a succession of doctors who took her money and didn’t help her.

As she began to wind down her story, some men of Jairus’ household came and told him there was no further need to wait for Jesus. It was too late. His daughter had already died.

Then Jesus heard them, turned to Jairus, looked at him, and told him not to fear, but to keep believing. And that’s what he chose to do. He received his miracle.

His beautiful 12-year-old daughter was raised by Jesus

To end, in summary, most of us, most of the time, would rather ask and receive immediately.

We are impatient when we have to stand and wait.

When Jesus commands us to believe that we receive and that we will have what we asked for, he doesn’t mean we get it immediately and he doesn’t mean that what we get will necessarily be what we expect!

Jairus waited only a few minutes, some prayers take years to manifest. In the meantime, we must continue to believe, to act, to speak, and to stand for as long as it takes. Amen

*1540 words*