

A MOMENT OF DESPERATION

Freedom

Here are 3 main thoughts I will be trying to communicate.

1. If you want to overcome something that hinders you...focus on your assets.

(What you DO have)

2. If you want to overcome something that hinders you...forget about others.

(Quit comparing yourself to other people...it's never productive and it's never accurate)

3. If you want to overcome something that hinders you...free yourself from mindsets, attitudes, behaviors, and perceptions that weigh you down.

Luke 8:43-48 - (NIV)

⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding **for twelve years**, but **no one could heal her**.

⁴⁴ She came up behind him and **touch**ed the edge of his cloak, and **immediately** her bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵ **“Who touched me?”** Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.”

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; **I know that power has gone out from me.**”

⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

⁴⁸ Then he said to her, **“Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”**

Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman -

This miracle illustrates the genuineness and power of feeble and erroneous faith, and Christ’s merciful way of strengthening and upholding it.

The woman, a poor, shrinking creature, has been made more timid by long illness, disappointed hopes of cure, and by poverty.

She does not venture to stop Jesus, as He goes with Jairus an important official of the synaogue to heal his daughter, but creeps up in the crowd behind Him, puts out a wasted, trembling hand to touch the tasseled fringe of His robe-and she is whole.

TWELVE YEARS – THE ISSUE OF BLOOD:

It may be assumed that the disease from which she suffered made her, according to the Levitical Law, **ceremonially unclean:**

This had separated her in a great measure for a very long period from all contact with the outer world.

- **HEMORRHAGING FROM FEMALE ORGANS**
- **BECAUSE OF HER CONSTANT BLEEDING**
- **SHE WAS CONSIDERED UNCLEAN.**
- **HER HUSBAND COULD NOT KNOW HER**
- **TO TOUCH HER WAS TO MAKE ONESELF UNCLEAN**
- **TO BE UNCLEAN WAS TO NOT BE ABLE TO WORSHIP GOD.**
- **YOU WOULD HAVE TO OFFER SACRIFICES TO BE CLEANSED OF THE UNCLEANNES**

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE SHAME

- **SHE IS CONSIDERED UNCLEAN**
- **SHE IS LABELED**

DON'T TOUCH HER -- SHE'S UNCLEAN

- **STAY AWAY**
- **AVOID HER**
- **DISASSOCIATE YOURSELF FROM HER**
- **HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HER - SHE'S UNCLEAN**

JESUS IS PRESSED WITH PEOPLE!!!!!!!!!!

HE'S ON HIS WAY TO A MIRACLE –
EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE IT.

- **HER BODY IS WEAK** - BUT SOMEHOW SHE IS ABLE TO PRESS INTO THE CROWD - **AND TOUCH THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT**

Immediately - SHE GAINS STRENGTH

IMMEDIATELY - THE BLEEDING STOPS

IMMEDIATELY - JESUS STOPS AND ASKS - **WHO TOUCHED ME???**

THE disciples SAY WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHO TOUCHED YOU - - -
MANY PEOPLE ARE HERE...

BUT JESUS ASKED - **WHO TOUCHED ME???**

SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS TOUCH

- **IT WAS THE TOUCH OF DESIRE**
- THE TOUCH OF HUNGER
- THE TOUCH OF NEED
- THE TOUCH OF WANT

Hebrews 4:15-16 - (KJV)

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be **touched** with the ***feeling of our infirmities***; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore come **boldly unto the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16 - (NIV)

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to **empathize with our weaknesses**, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

¹⁶ Let us then **approach God's throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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MANY PEOPLE PRESS AGAINST HIM, BUT SELDOM REALLY TOUCH HIM

SELDOM REALLY REACH UP - **EXPECTING** TO RECEIVE A TOUCH BACK.

JESUS IS TOUCHED BY THE FEELING OF OUR INFIRMITIES...

(empathize with our weaknesses)

- WHEN WE CRY HE CRIES
- WHEN WERE HUNGRY HE'S HUNGRY

PEOPLE WITH NEEDS STOPPED JESUS IN HIS TRACKS

- **JAIRUS** – Jesus **STOP** help my daughter!!!
- **Blind Bartimaeus** – Jesus **STOP** heal my blind eyes!!!
- **THE LEPERS** – Jesus **STOP** heal our afflicted bodies!!!
- **THE DEMONIAK OF Gadarenes** – **Jesus STOP** – remove this unclean spirit!!!

MANY PEOPLE WITH REAL NEEDS!!!!!!!!!!

AT TIMES WE GET THE THINKING THAT WERE NOT GOOD ENOUGH

- WE'RE TOO FILTHY FOR GOD TO CARE ABOUT
- WE'VE BEEN LABELED BY PEOPLE AND SO GOD CAN'T HELP
- WE THINK THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD WANT TO TOUCH ME!

BUT IF SOME HOW TODAY WE COULD JUST GET A HOLD OF THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- **IF WE COULD JUST REACH UP AND TOUCH HIM.**

I WANT YOU TO KNOW HE CAN MEET YOUR NEED

- HE CAN MINISTER TO YOUR PROBLEM
- THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF VIRTUE
- HE CAN MEET YOU WHERE YOU ARE!!!!!!

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Luke 19:2-10 - (NIV) (Za-Key-Us)

² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because **he was short** he could not see over the crowd.

⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”

⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “***He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.***”

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

ZACCHAEUS WAS CHIEF AMONG THE PUBLICANS

- *NO DOUBT* HE SKIMMED THE PLATE A FEW TIMES
- YOU DON'T GET RICH BY WORKING FOR THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT
- YOU GET RICH **BY STEALING** FROM THE TILL.

ONE DAY HE WANTS TO SEE JESUS - HE'S NOT LIKE EVERYBODY

- SO HE CLIMBS UP INTO A TALL TREE

BUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE THAT COME OUT TO SEE JESUS THAT DAY JESUS NOTICES ZACCHAEUS.

- ZACCHAEUS **FOUND SALVATION** THAT DAY.
- EVIDENTLY HE WAS LOOKING FOR **MORE THAN JUST THE "PREACHER"**
- HE WAS **LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER TO HIS HEARTS PROBLEMS**

I'M PREACHING TO SOMEONE HERE TODAY WHO IS NOT JUST PART OF THE CROWD

- **YOU'RE NOT** JUST HOPING TO GET **FRONT ROW SEAT.**
- BUT **YOU'RE LOOKING FOR** **THE ANSWERS TO YOUR LIFES QUESTIONS**
- **YOU'RE** **LOOKING FOR A INNER HEALING** THAT YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE ABOUT
- **YOU'RE HERE TODAY** **TO SEE IF YOU CAN FIND A GOD WHO REALLY CARES AND WHO CAN HELP YOU.**

HE'S HERE TODAY... AND HE SEE'S YOU

HE SEE'S YOUR PROBLEM - HE SEE'S YOUR SITUATION

- HE HAS NOTICED THAT ***YOUR HUNGER FOR HIM*** IS DEEPER THAN THE PERSON SITTING NEXT TO YOU!!!
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John 5:2-9 - (NIV)

² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.

³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

^[4] **From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease they had.**

⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, ***“Do you want to get well?”***

⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

⁸ Then Jesus said to him, **“Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”**

⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,

CLOSE:

A GREAT MULTITUDE WAS THERE THAT DAY - WHAT MADE THIS MAN DIFFERENT???????

- I BELIEVE HE WANTED IT MORE THAN THE REST.
- HE HAD NO ONE TO HELP HIM INTO THE POOL - BUT **GOD SAW HIS HUNGER**
- HE'S THE ONE WITH THE TEAR IN HIS EYE
- HE'S THE ONE WITH HIS HEART RIPPED OUT EVERY YEAR
- **THE ONE THAT WOULD GIVE ANYTHING** TO WALK LIKE A NORMAL MAN
- HE **WANTS IT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE** IN THE WORLD

IT'S HUNGER THAT TOUCHES GOD

- NOT POMP
- NOT PRESTIGE
- NOT MONEY
- NOT POSITION
- BUT HUNGER AND DESIRE FOR HIM

Matthew 5:6 - (NIV)

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Psalms 51:17 - (NIV)

¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is (***Or The sacrifices of God are***) a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart; you, God, will not despise.

- “A contrite heart is one in which the natural pride and self-sufficiency have been completely humbled by the consciousness of guilt.”
- A contrite heart offers no excuses and shifts no blame. It fully agrees with God about how evil it is.

HE IS SCANNING THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE TODAY AND HE IS LOOKING FOR THE HUNGRY HEART.

