

Mark 5:28

For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

To start today's devotional I want you to read the entire story of what's going on here. Even if you already know it, go ahead and read it again.

† **Mark 5:24-34** *So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him. Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "**Who touched My clothes?**" But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, Who touched Me?" And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "**Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.**"*

When I was reading this the other day, two words stood out to me, and those words are “**Thronged**” and “**Touched**”

The first word can be found in the first verse of today's devotional, “**So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.**” And it's also throughout the story.

The word “**Thronged**” in *Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary* means: **to compress, i.e. crowd on all sides.**

When I think of it, I think of forcing, pushing others out of the way to get closer to what they want, and isn't that what the people were doing, pushing others out of the way because it was all about them, not even caring about those around who had need of Jesus at that moment? I think they were just all excited to see Jesus do a miracle and they wanted to see an up close view of it.

† **Mark 5:22-23** *And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live."*

Come on Jesus, I want to see you heal this little girl. Get out of my way, I want to see Jesus perform for us, they may have been saying or thinking.

Jesus even addressed all these throngers in one of His teachings when He said: ***“But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues”***

Matthew 23:5-6

But I wonder if the people in the crowd actually knew this woman who had the issue of blood for twelve years. It could have been that they chose to stay away from her because they didn't want to be unclean according to the law.

† **Leviticus 15:25-27** *'If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her customary impurity, or if it runs beyond her usual time of impurity, all the days of her unclean discharge shall be as the days of her customary impurity. She shall be unclean. Every bed on which she lies all the days of her discharge shall be to her as the bed of her impurity; and whatever she sits on shall be unclean, as the uncleanness of her impurity. Whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.*

But all she knew is she wanted to be healed, and after twelve years of doctors, and no healing, and now broke from spending all her money on doctors, she knew her only hope was in Jesus. After all, I would think she heard about Jesus and how He healed others, and she may have even heard that Jesus was going to heal this little girl, so couldn't He heal her too?

But in her uncleanness (according to the law) she didn't want to be like the crowd, thronging Jesus, she simply wanted to reach into all the commotion and simply touch his garment. Did you catch that? ***For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."*** Everyone wanted to touch Jesus and be a part of the in-crowd, but she just wanted to touch the hem of His clothes, and she would have been satisfied.

Maybe she was thinking that she did not want to touch Jesus and make Him unclean, so she only wanted to barely touch the hem of His garment? But we know that she was made well and clean by Jesus, not because she thronged Jesus, but simply because she had faith in Jesus to heal her and wasn't looking to be a part of the in-crowd.

Yet how many want to be a part of the in-crowd in the church, wanting to be seen by men, or wanting to have an “in” with the pastor or leadership? Those who do so are those who don't want to do those little invisible jobs like cleaning the bathroom, or taking out the trash, or praying in secret. No, they want to be seen and admired for who they know and because they are a part of the in-crowd.

Yet those in leadership are not there because they were a part of the in-crowd, but rather because they were not a part of it. They are in leadership because they chose to do those little unseen jobs in the church and were simply happy touching the hem of Jesus' garment as they followed in His example, bowing down and being a servant washing the feet of others (doing the job no one else wanted to do). And even though they thought that no one knew, God knew and pointed them out to the pastor and the leadership already in the church because; ***“A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.” Proverbs 29:23***

So do you want to part of the in-crowd and those who thronged Jesus, or do you want to be a part of the rare crowd who are happy serving and touching the hem of His garment? Don't seek to be somebody in the church, and you will be somebody. But when you seek to be somebody in the church, you will end up being nobody.

† **Mark 10:43** *Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.*

† **Luke 12:31** *But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.*