

Expectant Faith and Healing

Mark 5: 25-34

Summary: In his event, recorded in Mark, we see the woman approaching Jesus in Faith. We witness in Jesus, his deeds and words manifesting his care for a suffering humanity. ***“Christ's compassion toward the sick and his many healings of every kind of infirmity are a resplendent sign that “God has visited his people”¹⁰⁴ and that the Kingdom of God is close at hand.” CCC 1503.***

I. Mk. 5: 25-29

A. vv. 25-26

1. The woman's affliction of hemorrhage is ritual impure (see Lev. 17:11). She was unclean. She was not allowed in the worshipping community. She was forbidden to have sexual union with her husband.

2. She became isolated from the most important relationship in her life. She spent all her money on doctors.

B. vv. 27-29

1. She “heard about Jesus”. Despite all the rejections and disappointments, she persisted in her faith. “If I could just touch.....”

2. She “heard”. What did she hear? Perhaps the stories of Jesus Touching people's lives; perhaps she heard his teaching. He uses It all to reach the heart of his daughter.

“Moved by so much suffering Christ not only allows himself to be touched by the sick, but he makes their miseries his own: “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.” CCC1505

II. Mk. 5: 30-34

A. vv. 30-32

1. Healed of affliction- she senses wellness; yet what she senses is “greater” than the physical healing; a certain fullness comes over her.

2. “Who touched me?” The disciples reacted to Jesus' surprised by stating the obvious. The crowd was pressing in on Jesus. They try to help Jesus gain some sense of realism. Yet her touch was different. Her faith moved his heart; her faith brought her into contact with Jesus.

3. He looked around. He searched her out for the relationship. This is love-searching out the broken and thirsting for her faith.

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4. She becomes afraid. She broke the law. She was concerned about making Jesus unclean. But as the leper learned (in MK. 1:40-45) no one can make Jesus unclean. In the OT, they stayed away from the leper. In the NT, grace draws near the leper and unclean. He touches to make clean; to heal.

B. v. 33

1. “fear and trembling” -expresses timidity but not in the sense of wanting to “run away.” It expresses being in “awe” of the mighty deeds of God.
2. On one level, she knows she is healed physically. But at a deeper level, something has happened to her. She contacts the Lord. “She falls down....” Expression of worship.
3. Healing at any level leads to contact with the Lord and worship. She tells him “the whole truth”- healing of past hurts and wounds.

C. v. 34

1. “daughter”-she is part of the spiritual family. She is a daughter of the covenant. Her identity is rooted in the covenant of her people with the Lord through Abraham, Issac and Jacob and David. Healing does include healing “ of her true identity” as sons and daughters and God as Father.
2. “sozo”-saved; soundness; harmony; make whole; the Lord’s healing is complete; full. “I have come to give life and give it abundantly.” John 10:10.
3. “Go in peace” -blessing; Shalom-total harmony; “nothing missing; nothing broken.

Summary

1. The woman shows us how to approach Jesus with faith. She expressed faith in his love, power, wisdom and goodness. Whether we approach Him at the Eucharist, receiving prayer, or praying with someone -we do so with expectant faith. We anticipate Him touching us with His power.
2. The deeds and works of the Lord manifest his care for a suffering humanity.
3. Jesus thirsts for our faith, our trust in him. So we step out to seek him for healing and we step out to pray with others. Faith is manifested by coming to Him to “ask”. It is also manifested by us “Stepping out” to pray with others.

(Over)

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4. Testimonies of Jesus' deeds "build" up faith. They raise the level of expectation and create a "culture" of expectation. Scripture stories, prophetic words and words of knowledge and stories of people being healed and/or touched by the Lord build up faith.
5. Jesus as the healer, draws near to the brokenness of body, soul, the human heart, emotions and relationships. Pope Francis called the parish to be a "field hospital:" prayer for healing is ministry to a suffering and broken humanity.
6. In Jesus, the kingdom of God has arrived. It fulfills the Old covenant expectations of the Messiah. The healing that occurs is "sign of the new creation." This is a work in process.

"We believe that the Lord has taken all our diseases upon himself in order to heal us, and therefore we can pray in faith and trust to be made whole." St. Leo the Great.