

WHO TOUCHED ME?

***Luke 8:47** And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.*

A woman who was menstruating or bled for any other reason was considered unclean, according to the Law of Moses. Leviticus 15 gives a detailed list of all that becomes unclean for the duration of the blood issue – beds, chairs, vessels, clothes etc. “And if a woman have an issue, and her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until the even. And everything that she lieth upon in her separation shall be unclean: everything also that she sitteth upon shall be unclean” (Leviticus 15:19,20). Perhaps this woman was terrified of the consequences of the Law of Moses, as I said previously. But she forgot that the Law of Moses had no power against the grace and love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let me share a spiritual insight about the relationship between the issue of blood from women and the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why do women menstruate? Simply put, each time a woman menstruates (ca. ages 11-51), the body is preparing for pregnancy.

Every month, in the years between puberty (typically age 11 to 14) and menopause (typically about age 51), your body readies itself for pregnancy. The lining of your uterus thickens and an egg grows and is released from one of your ovaries.¹

So, the blood issue of women is about preparation for children. Now, we know that only children who are born again of the water and the Spirit of Jesus Christ can enter heaven (John 3:5). In other words, there is a clear connection between women’s blood issue and the new birth through the Lord Jesus. In touching Jesus, the woman’s blood stopped flowing. This was a clear sign: instead of Bob Marley’s “No woman no cry”, we can say today, “No woman no bleed” because Jesus Christ has bled for our sins. This woman in our story who had a blood issue for 12 years, somehow knew that Jesus garment had the power to stop her blood flow. It was as if she could spiritually “see” the garment of Jesus dipped and covered with the blood of God (Acts 20:28). “And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God” (Rev 19:13).

¹ <https://www.healthline.com/health/why-do-women-have-periods>

With this backdrop in mind, it is obvious why the woman whose faith drew healing virtue from the Lord decided to quietly mingle with the crowd and disappear. Had she been discovered, she thought, there may be the risk of first confessing her sin and then face the punishment stated in the Law of Moses. Like this woman, many wish to hide after receiving the blessings of the Lord and just go quietly to heaven. However, the Lord Jesus will never allow us to hide in the crowd.

Luke 8:45 And Jesus said, *Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?*

“Who touched me?” demanded the Lord! In other words, who has received salvation, forgiveness, healing, peace, goodness, holiness, restoration and countless other blessings at the hands of the Lord? We may think that we are hidden in the crowd, but rest assured the Lord will keep asking, “Who touched me?” He knows our names, where we are and precisely what we received from him. It is time to stop hiding! It is time to come forward and confess before the crowd what Jesus has done for you and me. No Christian will ever go secretly to heaven. There are people who are afraid of persecution or losing their privileges and positions, so they decide to be secret Christians. The Christians who come out at night and consult with the Lord. “And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight” (John 19:39). Nicodemus is mentioned in the Gospel of John – he was no longer a secret disciple; the entire world knows his name now. Jesus is still asking us, “Who touched me?”

Luke 8:41 And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house:

Luke 8:42 For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.

Let us not forget the Lord was on his way to a certain Jairus. Jairus is named – he appears to be important. It was for this reason the crowds thronged the Lord. The focus was on Jairus and the miracle the Lord would do in his house to heal his daughter. Perhaps this woman thought to herself that her miracle was not important for the others – Jairus' daughter is more important. She is about to die. Let me get my healing in secret while the Lord is on his way to perform the main event. How wrong she was! Every person and their need is important to the Lord. Jairus' daughter was 12 years old, but this woman lived a blood issue for 12 years. Every blessing and every miracle must be accounted for in the eyes of the Lord.

Don't worry about Jairus' daughter, the Lord knew she would die while he spent time asking, "Who touched me?". What matters is that everyone who touches Jesus and draws virtue from him comes forward and testifies to the crowd. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow" (James 1:17).

Is it not on this earth more than in heaven that people need to hear about what Jesus did for us? Do we have plans to convert people to the Lord in heaven? I hope not because heaven is only to glorify the Lord, not convince anyone about his Godhead. Is there anyone here hiding in the crowd? How long have you been hiding what Jesus has done for you? Jesus says to you, "Who touched me?" God will not permit his people to hide – rest assured. When Jonah thought he could hide by sleeping in a ship, God made sure he would not sleep for a long time in the belly of a great fish. Why? Because he was touched by God to become a prophet to the nations! What you and I have received from Jesus is for the nations. He cannot and will not permit us to hide! No one will enter heaven through the back door. Why must the blessings of the Lord be publicly confessed? For two reasons: to confirm the Godhead of Jesus before unbelievers and to edify those who already believe in the Lord's deity. The chief butler of Pharaoh forgot how Joseph blessed him in comforting him with a wonderful interpretation of his dream, and yet he forgot Joseph for two years. But God did not forget Joseph – he caused Pharaoh to dream again so the butler would remember.

Gen 41:9 *Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:*

God is able to make Pharaoh dream again to remind us about what we owe him. Jesus will not permit us to sit quietly beside Pharaoh in high places – remember Joseph please! Finally, the Lord will not permit us to hide because there are more blessings he wants to pour out upon us after we confess his blessings. "And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace" (Luke 8:48). Don't you want the Lord to call you "daughter" or "son" and praise your faith? When Jesus asks, "Who touched me?", let us respond with a loud voice, "Jesus!". May the good Lord grant us the spirit and love of the church of Thessalonica who declared the name of Jesus throughout Greece!

1Thess 1:7 *So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.*

1Thess 1:8 *For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak anything.*