

“WHO TOUCHED ME?”

Rev. Peter M. Buss

Lessons: *Mark 5*

On His way to save a little girl who was dying, the Lord did another miracle. He helped a woman who had been sick for twelve years. These two stories, told together, help us understand ways in which the Lord helps us.

The better miracle was His healing of the little girl. Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue (that means that he was a very important man in the Jewish church), had only one little daughter, and she was dying. When Jesus got to the house, she had already died, and everyone was crying. Jesus told them that she was only asleep, and in their sorrow they laughed at Him, because they were sure that she was dead. But Jesus took only Peter, James, and John and the mother and father of the child, and went into the room where she was. He took her by the hand and told her to rise up, and she was altogether better.

On the way to Jairus's house, lots of people were all around Him, going with Him to see what He would do. A woman had a bleeding disease. Her body had been bleeding for years, and she had gone to doctor after doctor and spent all her money, but didn't get any better. In fact she got worse. She trusted in the Lord so much that she thought, "If I can only touch the hem of His garment I will be made well." She did so, and right away she was made better. The bleeding stopped.

Now I want you to notice two special things about these stories. The first is that each time the person was made well by touching. The woman reached out her hand and touched the Lord's clothes, and she was better. The girl was dead. The Lord had to reach out His hand and touch her; and then she was better.

The second interesting thing is that the Lord did not want people to know about the more important miracle. He told the parents to keep quiet about it. But with the healing of the woman He did want people to know! He stopped, and turned around, and said, "Who touched Me?"

He didn't have to ask that question. He knew who touched Him. He wanted her to come out and admit it. Do you remember how Peter was surprised? He said, "Lord the multitudes throng you and press you." There are people touching You all the time. But Jesus said that this was a special touch, because power went out of Him. Then the woman came

forth. She was frightened, but she told everyone how she trusted the Lord, and just touched the hem of His garment, and she was better.

Isn't that interesting? Jesus didn't want people to know how He brought a little girl back from the dead, but He did want them to know how this woman trusted Him and was helped. There is a most special reason for this.

Let me tell you another story—and it's only a story—about a man of today. He started to work for someone who trusted him, and kept a lot of money at his work. This man was greedy and so he started to steal money from the owner of the business, who trusted him. That's certainly an evil thing to do, isn't it? Because the owner trusted him, no one knew that he was a thief. It was a secret which only he and the Lord knew.

Why did he steal? Because he wanted things, and he was impatient. He didn't want to wait until he had saved up money, so he stole money. He kept on telling himself it was all right, and that he deserved the money, and so on. In this way he was killing his love of the truth. His love of the truth was like that little girl who was dying.

Now no one knew he was a thief. But probably they could see that he was impatient. They could see that he would get cross if he couldn't get things when he wanted them, and he got angry if people got in his way. They wouldn't have said, "I think he's an evil man. I think he steals." But they would say, "He's rather impatient. I wish he wasn't in such a hurry to get things." His impatience was like the issue of blood that the woman had.

One day this man realized that his stealing was evil. Even though no one knew about it, the Lord knew and he knew that it was a sin. So he turned to the Lord, and he said he was sorry, and he asked the Lord to give him strength to fight against his stealing. He asked the Lord to come into his house and heal his love of the truth so he could fight against evil. The Lord loved him like He loves all people, so He did so. He came down into the streets of that man's mind, and walked in his mind, and made his love of truth better so that he could fight against stealing. It was a wonderful, happy secret between the Lord and that man. No one else knew about it. No one knew he had been a thief, and no one knew he had stopped stealing.

But when the Lord came into his mind He also healed his impatience. You see, because the Lord was now in his mind he found the strength to stop being impatient, and to stop wanting things in a hurry and getting angry because he couldn't have them. This is like the Lord healing the

woman with the bleeding disease. And this was something that people around him could see. They remembered how impatient he used to be, and now they could see that he was becoming more gentle, and less upset about things. Now they could see how much nicer he was becoming.

That is the secret of these two miracles. When we ask the Lord into our minds to help us with our secret evils, He also helps us with lots of other things too. He helps us with our bad habits. We touch the hem of His clothing, and we are helped.

It is because the Lord helps us in all sorts of ways that He told this story of two miracles. One was secret, and was very, very important. A dead little girl came back to life. One was public—everyone knew of it—a woman was made better. So also the Lord can help a man who is a thief, and no one knows; but He also helps him with his impatience and his greediness, and people do know that, and they see that he is becoming a better person, because he trusts in the Lord.