

Just Barely Touching

The Story: Mark 5:25-34

I. “Who touched my clothes?” Vs. 30

- A. “I’m so glad Jesus stopped... we never would have known
- B. Why did Jesus stop this woman?

After healing the woman, Jesus desired her to acknowledge the blessing she had received. The gifts which the gospel offers are not to be secured by stealth or enjoyed in secret. So the Lord calls upon us for confession of His goodness. “Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God.” Isa. 43:12. {DA 347.2}

- C. The tragedy of it all – Only one - with so many thronging him!
 - 1. “Virtue had gone out (Luke 8:45-46)
 - 2. What set this woman apart? Vs. 34 – This woman’s faith was different

That raises a question...

II. What is Bible Faith?

A. Faith is Believing ... Hebrews 11:6

- 1. The world will teach you that you can do anything you believe. Beware of spiritualism.
- 2. This is specific: Faith in the Word

Evidence: Malachi 4:2 – Wings – Kanaph
In this she was believing in Jesus - John 1 –

BUT: True faith is more than just believing – the devils believe and tremble. James 2:19

B. Hebrews 11:7, 8, 28, 30:

- 1. Faith takes action...

Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him. {SC

47.1}

Obedience – it's become a bad word in SDA circles

Can you be a legalist and obey?

2. Jesus' border – Numbers 15:37

Exodus 15:26

Don't have to ... get to

Now notice this in a different context: Psalm 61:4

C. Hebrews 11:6 – "Diligence..."

"Diligently" - Greek – Search, Strive, Require back

On the way to the ruler's house, Jesus had met, in the crowd, a poor woman who for twelve years had suffered from a disease that made her life a burden. She had spent all her means upon physicians and remedies, only to be pronounced incurable. But her hopes revived when she heard of the cures that Christ performed. She felt assured that if she could only go to Him she would be healed. In weakness and suffering she came to the seaside where He was teaching, and tried to press through the crowd, but in vain. Again she followed Him from the house of Levi-Matthew, but was still unable to reach Him. She had begun to despair, when, in making His way through the multitude, He came near where she was. {DA 343.4}

The golden opportunity had come. She was in the presence of the Great Physician! But amid the confusion she could not speak to Him, nor catch more than a passing glimpse of His figure. Fearful of losing her one chance of relief, she pressed forward, saying to herself, "If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole." As He was passing, she reached forward, and succeeded in barely touching the border of His garment. But in that moment she knew that she was healed. In that one touch was concentrated the faith of her life, and instantly her pain and feebleness gave place to the vigor of perfect health. {DA 343.5}

Where was this woman?

Race in elementary

She did everything in her power – nothing left - that is faith!

Beware of a Gospel without human effort –

God gives us bodies, strength of brain, time and opportunity in which to work. It is required that all be put to the tax. With humanity and divinity combined you can accomplish a work as enduring as eternity. When men

think the Lord has made a mistake in their individual cases, and they appoint their own work, they will meet with disappointment. {FW 27.1}

Without human effort divine effort is in vain. {AH 206}

The work of gaining salvation is one of copartnership, a joint operation. There is to be co-operation between God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness. {AA 482.2}

We are to do all that we can do on our part to fight the good fight of faith. We are to wrestle, to labor, to strive, to agonize to enter in at the strait gate. ...The true worker will have divine power to aid him, but the idler will not be sustained by the Spirit of God. {FW 48.1}

Nothing in our efforts to merit our own salvation, for me to exert my efforts is simply to give back to God that which He gave to me.

Romans 12 - Living sacrifice

All of the effort, strength, etc. – is immeasurably small

Man can accomplish nothing without God, and God has arranged His plans so far as to accomplish nothing in the restoration of the human race without the cooperation of the human with the divine. The part man is required to sustain is immeasurably small, yet in the plan of God it is just that part that is needed to make the work a success. {4MR 113.3}

Symblysm – Church

Spent all, tried everything else – Where is the church in the book of Acts – Run everywhere –

But none the better for it -

We need virtue – need to connect

Conclusion: Little detail in the book DA – “He came near where she was...”

Christ came just close enough ...

Jesus comes close enough for you to have that touch of virtue and power...

All you have to do is just barely touch.

Trust His word – you might feel as if you stand alone