



CALVARY MURRIETA WOMEN'S MINISTRY

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LADIES

R&R BIBLE STUDY 2017-2018



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LADIES

Sister-in-Suffering: Lesson 19

I'm so excited to study this woman. I've prayed all week about which lady to write about, and this morning I was immediately drawn to her. I'm not sure why, nor am I sure why I'm so excited. Sadly, I think she's a woman many of us will relate to, being someone who desperately needed a touch from the Lord. But her desperation drew her to Christ, which we can all learn from. Each of us suffers in some way. Sometimes people can physically see our "issue" like those who were lepers, while others suffer silently alone. Whatever your "issue" is, Jesus is the answer. I pray that this week's lesson will touch your heart, and will affirm your faith, while challenging you to reach out and touch the hem of His garment!

First Day

1. Read all three accounts and list all the specific details of this story; Matthew 9:18-22, Mark 5:25-34, and Luke 8:47-48.

2. Where did she most likely live, according to Mark 5:21?

3. What was her biggest "issue"? How did this make her unclean? Read Leviticus 15:19-30. How long would the blood have to have stopped for her to become "clean" again?

4. Does our text tell us how old she was?
5. If she touched Jesus, would she have made Him unclean as well?
6. Physically speaking, if someone was bleeding for 12 years, what problems might they be experiencing?
7. Do you think Jesus, or His garment, healed her?

I know question #7 seems a bit silly, but there are many today who still believe pieces of garments can heal people. Jesus controlled His power. It did not automatically just flow from Him, responding to the woman without His knowledge. He knew He had been touched with a “touch of faith,” and He allowed His healing to go forward. Healing is always found in Jesus, not in the “thing” you touch or the “words” you’re told to say.

We don’t know how old she is, although most believe she was old enough to be married, yet not elderly. Most also speculate that she was unmarried, or divorced, seeing that Deuteronomy 24:1 gives a man permission to divorce if he finds anything “unclean” in his wife. Having marital relations with her would have made him unclean as well, so most think no man would have remained married to her. That’s heartbreaking.

8. Tomorrow we’ll begin to take a deeper look at our woman, but for now, read the following accounts of when Jesus also told someone their faith would make them well. Do you see any similarities? Differences?
 - a. Matthew 9:28-30
 - b. Matthew 15:24-28
 - c. Mark 2:1-5

d. Mark 10:46-52

Memory Verse of the Week: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

Second Day

Work on your memory verse.

1. Let’s read Mark’s account again in 5:25-34. Try to imagine how our friend felt emotionally. I’m positive that physically she was anemic, tired, frail, and weak. How do you think she may have felt emotionally?
2. Do you think embarrassment would have played a part in how she felt? Why?
3. She had spent all her money on the doctors, leaving her destitute, and her condition had only gotten worse. How would this have made her feel?
4. Has that ever happened to you?
5. Our suffering sister must have felt extremely lonely being isolated from everyone, since she was unclean for so long. She was socially and religiously isolated, not even being able to worship with her community. Not to even “touch” someone for 12 years ... heartbreaking. Have you ever felt isolated and alone, unable to be in communion and fellowship with others due to something beyond your own control? How did you feel? What did you do?

10. Are there some risks you need to take to reach out to Jesus today? What are they? How can her story encourage you?

11. Read 1 Peter 4:19. What does Peter tell us to do when we are suffering? What does that mean? Are you?

I pray that you can see yourself in this story somehow, and are encouraged and challenged in the situations and circumstances you face today. We'll continue her story tomorrow! Don't you love her?

Third Day

Work on your verse. Ponder its meaning ...

Let's read Mark's account again in 5:25-34. I think I figured out why I love her so much. She's needy! She desperately needs Jesus and she knows it. Just like me! I am ridiculously needy, yet Jesus knows it and wants me to continue bringing those needs to Him. Amazing, simply amazing.

1. Our friend doesn't make a production of her neediness, but rather is pretty much silent as she approaches Jesus. She seems to go "unnoticed" by the crowd, perhaps revealing yet another emotion she may have. Have you ever felt unnoticed in a crowd? Can you describe how that feels?

Mark says her healing was immediate, or some translations say "straightaway." This is said to be one of Mark's favorite words, using it 27 times in his Gospel. In most cases, it's related to Christ's rapid healings. The garment she touched was thought to be one of the tassels on the corners of His garment that hung down His back. The word "touch" in the Greek is "haptomai" meaning "to fasten onto or grab."

2. It appears, then, that she was kind of “clinging” to His garment, much like Mary Magdalene clung to Him when she saw Him at the tomb. What does this tell us?

3. Why did the disciples respond the way they did? Why do you think their response is included in our text?

4. Jesus immediately knows what’s going on in her heart and sees her faith. How does that encourage your heart as well?

5. Why do you think Jesus “calls her out” publicly? Why do you think she may have been afraid?

6. Did she come forth and speak up? What does that tell you about her?

I think she could have been afraid for a number of reasons. First, she shouldn’t have even touched Him because He was a man. Next, she was unclean and now she would go from unnoticed to noticed in this crowd! Was she afraid of people’s reactions? Was she afraid she’d be “in trouble” for doing something against the law and receive a public rebuke? Maybe she was so overcome with emotion that she still couldn’t believe what was happening. I don’t know, but whatever was making her fearful, was making her tremble as well. Poor thing!

7. What does Jesus say to her? How is this a term of endearment?

The Great Physician saw the patient, and her faith was crowned by the Master! He cared about her physical ailment, He cared about her feelings, and He cared about her future. He is our Sympathetic Suffering Savior. (Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:15)

8. How would His public declaration restore her social standings?

9. Why do you think her public declaration of healing was important for her, as well as for the crowd and the disciples?

10. How did Jesus:
 - a. Relieve her fears?

 - b. Reassure her?

 - c. Bless her?

 - d. Assure her it was complete?

Our suffering sister was willing to hope in Jesus. She truly believed He could help. Her faith moved her to action, trusting Him enough to reach out for Him. How about you? Have you reached out to touch His garment, believing that He is who He says He is?

Fourth Day

Work on your memory verse.

1. How would you define "faith?" (You can use verses as well.)

2. Fill in the blanks using the verse listed:

A. _____ by faith. (Romans 1:17)

B. _____ by faith (Romans 4:12)

C. _____ by faith. (Matthew 21:22)

D. _____ by faith. (Ephesians 6:16)

E. _____ in faith. (1 Corinthians 16:13)

F. _____ in faith. (Acts 14:22)

G. _____ in faith. (Romans 4:20-24)

H. _____ in faith. (2 Corinthians 8:7)

3. Faith is “having complete trust and confidence in God; having a reliance and loyalty towards Him.” Read Hebrews 11:8-19. How did Abraham exercise his faith? How is he an example of “walking by faith”?

4. Have you placed your trust in God, declaring that He is who He says He is, and is bigger than ALL things? (Matthew 19:26 and Mark 10:27)

5. How did the woman with the issue of blood exercise her faith?

6. Are you struggling with your faith right now, struggling to believe Him when you can't see anything? What can you learn from the example of our lady, as well as Abraham? Why are "embracing His promises" so important?

7. I think our woman's story can be symbolic of sin and salvation as well. Her "issue" separated her from everyone. How does sin do the same? (Romans 6:23)

8. She had tried many of the doctors' "remedies", but to no avail. So often we try to find the remedy or solution to our "issues" in the world, which only treats our symptoms temporarily. What do I mean by this? Can you give any examples?

9. Jesus also heals our spiritual "affliction" and tells us to go in peace. What kind of "peace" does He offer? Read Romans 5:1-2, John 14:27, 16:33, Ephesians 2:14, and Philippians 4:6-7.

10. Jesus calls her to make her need public and tell others she was healed. She was afraid what others may think, but she spoke up with courage. How about you? Has God called you to make your need public and tell others what God has done in your life? How can the "word of our testimony" bring God glory? (Revelation 12:11) Are you being obedient?

Tomorrow we are going to look at what was happening during the time of this healing. It was a double whammy! See you then!

Fifth Day

Write out your verse from memory.

1. Today let's take a few moments and see what else was happening during the time the woman with the issue of blood was healed. Read Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:21-43, and Luke 8:41-56. (Obviously concentrate on the part about Jairus and his daughter.) What did our "suffering sister's healing" interrupt? Describe the situation.
2. What was Jairus' occupation? How old was his daughter?
3. Why do you think Jesus stops to heal our little friend first? Why is this significant?
4. Warren Wiersbe believes the contrast between the two needy people in this section is "Striking and reveals the wideness of Christ's love and mercy." Can you see and explain the contrast?
5. Jairus was no doubt wealthy, but his money could not save his little daughter. The woman had given away all her money to the doctors and received no help as well. Where did both of them find the answer to their need?

6. How do you think Jairus felt when Jesus paused to help someone else?

7. Do you think the woman's healing was made public for the sake of Jairus as well? Why?

8. Do you think it would have been easy or comfortable for Jairus to come to Jesus to ask for help? Why not? Were the religious leaders "fans" of Jesus? What risks did Jairus take?

9. Jesus' timing is always perfect. The story of Jairus and the woman with the issue of blood are purposely intertwined to teach us something. What can we learn about God's timing from this story? Is God always in the "pause"?

10. We see a desperate man and a desperate woman reaching out to Jesus for help. I must ask you again. Are you reaching out to Him in your time of need, trusting that God's timing is perfect, even if there appears to be a "pause"?

11. What are the most important lessons you learned from our lesson this week, and from our suffering sister?

12. Were you encouraged, challenged, or convicted? (Maybe some of each?)