**You Are Not Your Issues!**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday November 1st, 2020

Text: Luke 8:43-48 (Mark 5:25-34)

### Intro

1. Many times in life we get defined by our “issues”
   1. “I am an Asthmatic”
   2. “I am a Diabetic” *(Insert any issue you may be facing)*
   3. Our identities sometimes get lost in the descriptions of our issues to doctors and care providers and can easily be what defines us.
2. You are NOT your issues! *(You are more than that!)*
3. You are created in the image of God *(Gen. 1:26-27)* and He loves you so much that He sent His Son to die for your sins to give you hope of an eternal home with Him! *(John 1:29; 3:16; 14:1-6)*
4. There is an account of an unnamed woman who is for all time recorded for her “issue” but finds compassion, healing, and a new identity in Jesus in Mark 5:25-34 & Luke 8:43-48.
5. Many people today need the healing found only in Jesus, the Great Physician!

#### The Woman with the Issue of Blood for 12 Years

* 1. Luke 8:40-42: Jairus, an official of the synagogue, came and urged Jesus to come heal his dying 12-year old daughter.
  2. On the way there an interruption happened that didn’t seem to bother Jesus! *(Luke 8:43-48; Mark 5:25-34)*
     1. How do we handle interruptions?
  3. Luke 8:43-44, Mark 5:25-29: An unnamed woman, suffering a blood hemorrhage for 12 years, spent her livelihood on physicians (ESV/NKJV Luke 8:43; Mark 5:26) and could be healed by no one but only grew worse, touched the border of Jesus’ garment and was healed!
  4. Some things of note in this account…
     1. She is unnamed and known for all time by her “issue.”
     2. If she followed the Law of Moses her life the last 12 years was spent in isolation and included lots of water because she was “Unclean!”
        1. Lev. 15:19-24 has the laws governing a woman’s normal cycle where she would be unclean for 7 days and made clean the 8th.
        2. Lev. 15:25-33 makes clear that a woman with a discharge of blood outside the normal cycle is subject to all the rules of normality but also will be considered unclean until it is resolved!
        3. This means anyone who touches her, involuntarily or voluntary, needs to wash and is unclean until evening.
        4. Anything she sits on or sleeps on is unclean and so is anyone that touches them!
        5. Lev. 15:31 says, “Thus you shall keep the sons of Israel separated from their uncleanness, so that they will not die in their uncleanness by their defiling My tabernacle that is among them.”
     3. She had a long-term illness (12 years); she had seen many doctors, suffered much at their hands, and spent all her money (Mark 5:26).
     4. She not only “could not be healed by anyone” but had only grown worse!
     5. Because of the crowd she should have been shouting, “Unclean! Unclean!” because anyone she touched or who touched her would need to go bathe and be regarded as unclean themselves until evening!
        1. Anyone she touched or touched her would have been annoyed at the massive inconvenience since they would have had to stop what they were doing to go wash and isolate themselves as unclean until the evening!
     6. Imagine the jostling *(Mark 5:31; Luke 8:45)* it took to get to Jesus because she had heard of Him and thought to herself, “If I just touch His garments, I will get well” (Mark 5:28) – What faith!
        1. She was aware of:
           1. Jesus and His power
           2. Her need for Him in her life
           3. She knew she needed to “touch Jesus” and nothing would keep her from Him!
     7. She came to Jesus seeking to just touch Him and be healed, and she snuck up behind Him and stooped down to just touch the fringe of His cloak! (Luke 8:44) – NET “edge;” NKJV “border”
        1. Num. 15:37-41: All the male (“sons of Israel”) Jews had to wear tassels on each corner of their garments, and each tassel had to have a thread or cord of blue to signify their obedience to God’s Law and to be holy.
        2. This practice is still practiced in many Jewish communities today.
        3. Over the years other colors were added to signify their authority and status within their communities, such as royalty, nobility, rabbi, teacher or healer. (<https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/newsletter-sep-1993/the-tallit-and-tzitzit>)
        4. It is possible when David cut off the edge of Saul’s robe that he cut his tassel, symbolically cutting off his authority as king (I Sam. 24:4-5)
        5. Here, this woman most likely touched the tassel on the edge or border of His robe.
     8. When she touched Jesus, He didn’t become unclean but made her clean!
        1. Jesus has the healing ability to take what is unclean and make it clean!
        2. She would have had to remain “Unclean” for 7 more days after the flow of blood stopped and then been declared “Clean!” on the 8th day (Lev. 15:28)
  5. We also have a need to “touch Jesus”
     1. We have an illness of sin – Rom. 3:10, 23
     2. Rom. 6:23: Sin will bring about death – we are dying without Christ.
     3. Acts 10:28, 34-35: Peter said now through Jesus Christ let no one be called “unholy or unclean!” but that “in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.”
  6. Don’t let your issues or any other thing get in the way of you reaching Jesus, the Great Physician!

#### Beyond the Issues

* 1. Luke and Mark both introduce the woman by her issue of bleeding for 12 years (Luke 8:43; Mark 5:25-26)
     1. Despite her great faith and other positive traits this woman was defined almost entirely by her “issue,” by her problem, by her pain.
  2. The same thing can happen to you! To me!
     1. When your “issues,” problems, and pain threaten to overwhelm you and try to define you, don’t allow them to!
     2. Go to God in prayer and give it to the Master Healer! (I Peter 5:6-7)
  3. By grabbing the edge of Jesus’ robe (perhaps His tassel) she was grabbing hold of the symbol of Jesus’ authority and commitment to God, including the promises of His word!
  4. This is a beautiful picture of prayer!
     1. When you are in danger of being swallowed up or defined by your issues, go to God in prayer! (Phil. 4:6; I Pet. 5:6-7)
  5. Grab hold of the promises of God and don’t let go!

#### Know Your Value

* 1. Another lesson: This woman knew her value in God’s eyes!
     1. She refused to be stopped from her objective: To touch Jesus! (Mark 5:28)
  2. In both accounts, this woman was not Jesus’ main objective: He was on the way to Jairus’ house to heal his 12-year old dying daughter.
     1. One was 12 years old and dying!
     2. The other had been suffering for 12 years in lonely isolation!
     3. Doctors had failed both
     4. Both ladies needed Jesus
     5. Jairus was a synagogue official and would have been respected
     6. The Unclean woman would have been considered “riffraff”
  3. The unclean woman made her way through the crowd and touched Jesus!
     1. It caused an interruption to the procession on the way to an important man’s house but Jesus took the time to point her out.
  4. Luke 8:45-46; Mark 5:30-32: “Who is the one who touched Me?” – “For I was aware…”
     1. God’s salvation-healing is only for those who desire Him – she sought Him!
     2. *As God knows who is testing Him and who is sincere, He knows who desires Him, and He knew who touched Him – He asked for her benefit.*
  5. Luke 8:47; Mark 5:33: “…she came trembling and fell down before Him, and declared in the presence of all the people…the whole truth”
     1. She had to overcome her fears and the crowd’s intimidation.
     2. She came “trembling” and fell down before Jesus and confessed the “whole truth!” (Mark 5:33)
        1. If we humble ourselves to God, He will exalt us – I Pet. 5:6-7
  6. Her diligent efforts to “touch Jesus” allowed her to receive God’s blessing and be called, “Daughter” (Mark 5:34; Luke 8:48)
     1. Jesus called her, “Daughter,” lifting her beyond her “issue” and declaring in the presence of all the people her worth to God and said, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction” (Mark 5:34)
     2. Jesus transformed this woman’s identity!
     3. No longer “Unclean,” no longer “not enough” or excluded from society. No longer was she identified by her “issue.”
     4. She was a daughter of the King!
  7. The world will try to make you feel small, worthless, and not worth God’s time because of your “issues.”
  8. Jesus wants you!
     1. He says to come unto Him for rest (Matthew 11:28-30)
     2. When we come out of the world God promises, “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty (II Cor. 6:18).
  9. You matter and are of value to Jesus – He died for you to be lifted up from your “issues” and for you to be called a “Son” or “Daughter” of the King!

## Conclusion

1. When you feel your “issues” (whatever they are) defining you and feel all anyone sees is your problems and pain, remember: *You are NOT your issues!* **You are a child of the King!**
   1. You are adopted into the family of God not because of how special you are or because God needed you, but simply because God wants you, issues and all! *(Romans 8:14-17)*
2. Like this unnamed Daughter of the King, don’t stop! Don’t give up! Reach out and touch Jesus today and you will receive His blessings, salvation, and healing for your soul!
3. He is the Great Physician – Matthew 9:12
   1. Seek to “touch Jesus” (To be healed from sin)
   2. Accept His invitation (Through obedience to the gospel)
   3. Confess Him as Lord (Live your lives in submission to Him)
4. ***ONLY*** Jesus could save the woman and ***ONLY*** Jesus can save you! *(Acts 4:10-12)*
5. Don’t fall for the false “cures” of the world but obey the gospel in baptism for the forgiveness of your sins and go to God in prayer to find victory over the issues of life!
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!