

## "THE TOUCH OF FAITH"

Matthew 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, and Luke 8:43-48.

Upon the return of Jesus to Capernaum, His services were sought by Jairus, the ruler of the local synagogue. The occasion for it was that sickness had invaded his home and his daughter was lying at death's door. In times of sickness and calamity there is no friend like the compassionate Christ

"What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!"

This loving and anxious father went to Jesus and earnestly said, "My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray Thee, come and lay Thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live." And immediately "Jesus went with him." Just as Jesus accepted the invitation of Jairus to go into his home, so He will come into your home upon your invitation.

On His way to the home of Jairus, Jesus had to thread the narrow streets of the little town, which streets were filled with a curious crowd of people who did not want to miss anything that He was going to do. The crowds were eager to gratify their curiosity by the expected display of some miracle, or to hear words of strange import from His lips. The scriptures say that "as He went the multitudes thronged Him," meaning that they pressed around Him so closely that it was difficult for Him to move along. In the vast crowd there was a woman with an earnest and hidden purpose in her heart, and it is about her in particular that I intend to speak. I would have you to notice at least three things: —

### I. Her Condition.

This poor woman had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve long years. Her very touch was regarded as a defilement to other people, so she was not able to enjoy the ordinary contacts. She was not permitted to enter a synagogue. Because of her affliction she was ostracised by society. And what made it even worse was the fact that other people regarded her trouble as the direct consequence of sin. They believed that she was under a curse from God.

Sickness takes the flavor out of everything. It changes the whole current of feeling and desire. But, in spite of the fact that her illness had sapped her strength and caused her great sadness, she was fondly clinging to life. In her effort to get well, she had gone to numerous physicians, but all they could do availed nothing. Even though they had done their utmost for her, her case defied their skill and ability. Although she had spent all of her money for medical treatment, she had not improved. Luke, who was also a doctor, said, she "could not be cured of any." She had been given up as a hopeless case.

Twelve years is a long time when one is making a losing fight with some disease. This woman had trouble after trouble, and sorrow after sorrow. Her life was very much afflicted. She had lost health, which is tragic. Then, she lost all of the money which she had saved for a time of need, but her disease was as active as ever. And I can imagine that she had lost what is of more importance still, which is hope. There are so many, like this woman, who endure pain, languish in weakness, and hope against hope as the months and the years pass by.

In spite of her many attempts at recovery, all of which were unavailing, she refused to lie down in self-pity to enjoy bad health. She refused to give up. Weak and wan and emaciated and reduced to poverty she approached Jesus. And she came with the conviction that if she could only have contact with Him that there might be hope for even her. Her condition and her attitude were such as to attract the attention, to excite the compassion, and to secure the help of the gracious Redeemer.

## II. Her Cure.

When she heard about Jesus she believed what she heard. Whoever told her about Jesus must have given an inspiring account of Him and of what He could do. What she heard about Him opened the door of hope for her. She determined to apply to Him for a cure. Although no one else had been able to help her, she had the firm conviction that Jesus could and would do so. She was fully persuaded that He was able to heal even her. Upon being informed that Jesus was passing along the street, she ventured into the crowd that was following Him. She was persuaded in her own mind that if she could touch Christ's clothes she would be healed. With modesty, and not wishing to attract attention to herself, she followed closely in His train. She made her way through the crowd, came up behind Jesus, stooped down and nervously, shrinkingly, and appealingly touched the kraspedon on His robe or the tassel on the hem of His garment.

Christ, who always sees into the heart, distinguished between what the woman wanted and her way of expressing it. He recognized that her idea was wrong. His clothes were no more efficacious than were the clothes of any other person. Jesus saw behind her superstitious and ignorant action a soul that was really needy and that craved help so desperately. Seeing her need of healing and her desire for the same, Jesus permitted her faith to lay hold upon His heart and power in such a way that she got what she desired. Her faith was not well instructed, but it was real, and because it was genuine it was sufficient for Him. Just as soon as she touched the tassel of His robe, the fountain of her hemorrhage was dried up, the strange thrill of new-given life tingled through her frame, health beamed in her face, and she had within her that indescribable sensation which told her that she had been healed of the plague which had afflicted her for so many years. Her profound humility and her ardent faith resulted in her being healed by the Great Physician. He called it faith because it had strong desire behind it, and because it had trust and expectancy in it.

## III. Her Confession.

Instantly Jesus stopped, turned and faced the crowd, which was pressing closer around Him, and said, "Who touched Me?" Peter protested that it must have been the pressure of the crowd, but the Lord knew that some one had exerted faith in Him, and had touched Him. Jesus stood still looking over the crowd, and as His eyes scanned the faces of the people He recognized the woman who had touched Him. He scanned face after face with those eyes that searched the very secrets of each heart, until at last they rested on the face of the poor trembling woman. She saw that she had been perceived, and she came with fear and trembling and cast herself on His mercy as she fell prostrate at His feet and told Him the whole truth about the miracle of healing which had been wrought in her, awaiting the pleasure of His will whatever it might be. Confession should always follow cleansing. Indeed, the Word of God links belief in the heart and confession with the mouth.

On the ground of her confession, she received the threefold word of cheer: "Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace."

Having received that for which she came, she started to slip away quietly. When, however, she heard Him ask, "Who touched me?", she knew that something more was necessary.

By use of that tender word, "Daughter" Jesus had recognized her adoption into the family of God. He was not angry with her. Only time He used the word, "daughter," which means "my child."

The secret was out. She who had felt the virtue of healing felt also the searching power of His eye; and when she realized that she could not conceal the fact that she had been healed, she rushed forward and cast herself down before Him.

Immediately the word of kindness, joy, love, and satisfaction welled up within His breast and sprang to His lips in the words - daughter, etc.

His question was not asked for information, because He knew full well who had touched Him, but for the purpose of leading her to make a public confession of all that He had done for her. Finding that He knew all about it, the poor woman came with fear and trembling, fell down before Him, and "told Him all the truth." Having obtained her full confession, with the deepest tenderness Jesus said, It is as if He had said, "Take thankfully the cure which you have received, but as you go away enter into the peace which I came to impart to all those who trust in Me."

You are first to receive Christ, and then to confess Him. Come out openly and confess Christ. When you do so, He will seal and confirm your faith.

"She only touched the hem of His garment,  
As to His side she stole,  
Amid the crowd that gathered around Him,  
And straightway she was whole.

Oh, touch the hem of His garment,  
And thou, too, shalt be free:  
His saving power, this very hour,  
Shall give new life to thee."

This story teaches that there is no salvation apart from personal contact with Christ. We may try everything else, as this woman did, but we shall find that only Christ can heal and save. She could not find any help until she came to Jesus. You, too, can have salvation now if you will receive Christ as your Saviour. Put your trust in Him now. He will save you if you will admit your sin, repent of it, and trust Christ for salvation. The steps in touching Christ are repentance, faith, and self-surrender. Give up your sin and give up yourself.

"But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give MYSELF away;  
'Tis all that I can do!"