

OT Reading: Leviticus 15:25-33 **Laws about Uncleaness** (of feminine haemorrhaging)

NT Reading: Mark 5:25-34 **Jesus and the Bleeding Woman**

Background

v24

- Jesus went with Jairus to heal his daughter.
- Much people followed - imagine a huge crowd
- Thronged Jesus - hustle and bustle and jostling as they travelled

v25

- Particular lady
- **Had an issue of blood** (ie. *feminine haemorrhaging*)
 - Legal and spiritual implications (Leviticus 15)
 - ◆ She was unclean = couldn't be with people, especially go to temple!
 - ◆ Her bed and seats were unclean = contaminated
 - ◆ Whoever touched her OR those items were ALSO unclean
 - So they couldn't be with people, especially go to temple!
 - They had to wash their clothes
 - They had to bathe
 - Still remained unclean until nightfall!
 - ◆ IF or WHEN bleeding stops:
 - She remains unclean for 7 more days
 - Then on the eighth day
 - Go to the temple priest with 2 turtles OR 2 pigeons:
 - Sacrifice a sin offering
 - Sacrifice a burnt offering
- **12 years**
 - Extremely long time to endure ALL the problems
 - Physical implications
 - ◆ Depression
 - ◆ Anaemia
 - ◆ Fatigue, lethargy
 - ◆ Physical cramps
 - Social implications
 - ◆ Inability to go to markets, collect water, housework
 - ◆ Lonely
 - ◆ Loss of close friends
 - ◆ Demands on her family
 - ◆ Societal pariah

v26

- **Suffered many things of many physicians**
 - Initially herbal medicines
 - Next herbal poultices and pessaries - potential for infections
 - Next physical devices - starting to see potential for aggressive infections
 - Last straw - surgical apparatus?
- All worldly wisdom failed
- **Had spent all that she had**
 - She would need to have been reasonably affluent in her youth
 - Now she had spent everything

- Exhausted all the physicians' knowledge
- Not only didn't get better - Her bleeding got worse!

v27

- **When she heard of Jesus**

- His claims
- His teachings
- His deeds
- **Matt. 4:23-25:** And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

- He was passing through her district

- **She entered the crowd behind Him**

- Think of the consequences
 - ◆ She was deliberately breaking the law
 - ◆ Remember unclean
 - couldn't be with people, especially go to temple!
 - Couldn't touch anything
 - Whoever touched her was unclean
 - ◆ Big risk
- Consequently she had a full knowledge of her unworthiness!
 - ◆ She knew she was unclean
 - ◆ She knew she had NOTHING to offer Christ
 - ◆ She believed she was unworthy to approach Christ boldly to His face.
 - ◆ Compare how others asked for healings:
 - Jairus - **come to me house to lay hands on** my daughter (v.23)
 - Centurian - **not worthy to enter** his house, **speak the word** only (Mt. 8:8)
 - Leper - simply **asked if Jesus will**, make him clean. **Jesus touched** him (Mt.8:2, 3)
- This is an act of **Humility**

Humility = acknowledging that I am TOTALLY dependent on God

- It is grace of God, showing our unworthiness to be in his Holy presence!
- What is the chief end of man?

- From the very nature of things:

- **FIRST duty**
- **Highest virtue** of a creature
- **The ROOT of EVERY VIRTUE**

- **PRIDE** = loss of humility

- Root of EVERY sin and evil.

- In heaven and earth, **PRIDE** and **SELF-EXALTATION** is:

- The gate

- The birth
- The curse of HELL

- HUMILITY requires penitence and dependence on God alone
- True humility comes when in the light of God, we have seen ourselves as nothing
- Incorporates that:
 - We have consented to part with and cast away SELF
 - To let GOD be EVERYTHING!!!
 - Putting ourselves below others!!!
 - ◆ in honour preferring one another (**Rom.12:10**)
 - ◆ but by love serve one another. (**Gal.5:13**)
 - ◆ but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.(**Phil.2:3**)
 - ◆ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.(**Eph.5:21**)

- The humble man looks upon the feeblest and most unworthy child of God
 - Prefers and honours him as the son of a king!
 - feels no jealousy or envy.
 - Praises God when others are elevated above him
- The humble man follows the greatest example of humility: JESUS CHRIST Himself!!!
 - Jesus was sent into the world to do the will of his Father!
 - ◆ **Scriptural Examples of Christ's Humility (in His ministry)**
 - ◆ John 5:19 The Son can do *nothing* of himself
 - ◆ John 5:30 I can of mine own self do *nothing*: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek *not* mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.
 - ◆ John 5:38 I come *not* to do mine own will
 - ◆ John 5:41 I receive *not* glory from men.
 - ◆ John 7:16 My teaching is *not* mine.
 - ◆ John 7:28 I am *not* come of myself.
 - ◆ John 8:28 I do *nothing* of myself.
 - ◆ John 8:42 I have come *not* of myself, but of Him who sent me.
 - ◆ John 8:50 I seek *not* mine own glory.
 - ◆ John 14:10 The words that I say, I speak *not* from myself.
 - ◆ John 14:24 The word which ye hear is *not* mine.
 - **So we can clearly see how our Lord and Saviour, Sovereign Creator of ALL the universe demonstrates humility to his beloved.**
 - **Should we not follow His noble example?**

 - **Can I point out one more important thing about humility?**
 - ◆ It is not like modern English
 - ◆ Modern English refers to meekness and lowliness and humility as WEAKNESS.
 - ◆ The Koine words used here imply a deliberate submission to authority
 - ◆ **Not made from a position of powerlessness.**
 - ◆ Demonstrated by the creator coming as a servant, and His humiliation.
 - ◆ He could've come in power, like a warrior king - He is God after all
 - ◆ Chose to come ACCORDING TO HIS FATHERS WILL!
 - We too, have power - but humility demands we submit to God's will, too.

- **And touched His garment**
 - Touching Jesus' outer clothes
 - **Luk. 8:47** - Border (or hem) of His garment
 - Not even his very flesh/skin.
 - Why?
 - Another act of humility

v28

- **She said to herself**
 - *Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh.*
- **If I may touch but His clothes**
 - Convicted that Christ is so divine, that to glance just His clothes would accomplish her needs.
- **I shall be whole**
 - Cured after 12 horrific years
 - Cured after ALL man's best efforts to heal
- **NOTE: Faith comprises 2 aspects:** (mentioned in Steve's sermon last week)
 1. **Trust in a promise**
 - God is the able to do what He says
 - God is willing to do what He says.
 2. **Obedience to do what is expected / an ACTION of some sort!**
 - We have to do something

Trust and obey

- What happened next:

v29

- **And immediately**
- **The fountain of blood dried up.**
 - So severe it is referred as a fountain
 - It completely ceased for the first time in 12 years!
- **And she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague**
 - Not only had the bleeding stopped
 - Her body was healed:
 - ◆ Anaemia
 - ◆ Fatigue
 - ◆ Pain

v30

- **And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of Him**
 - Not a diminishing of his Spiritual power - that is infinite
 - More an expression of his omnipotence
- **Turned around in the crowd**
- **Said "Who touched my clothes?"**

v31

- Disciples response?
- Thou see the huge crowd pushing against you?
- ... And you're asking "who touched me?"
 - Disciples thought Jesus was nuts
 - They couldn't imagine anyone recognising someone bumping into them from behind
 - **Jesus asked who barely touched His clothes - a specific awareness**
 - The question is not from ignorance (He is omniscient)

v32

- **And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.**
- This expression could be better described in MODERN ENGLISH:
 - Jesus turned directly to the woman and looked **straight at her!**
- Jesus ALREADY knew who touched His garment!
- Imagine how this woman would have felt:
 - Fear of being recognised by the crowd as unclean?
 - ◆ Remember she had to count 7 days and go through the sacrificial rituals.
 - Shame that she did this act clandestinely / secretly?
 - Shame that she took something without permission?
 - ◆ I.e. God's glory for healing her!

- **But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her**
 - first fruit of the spirit in any believer = humility (cf. **Isaiah 6:1-10**)
 - To behold God in all His divine and holy glory
 - We see ourselves in filth compared to His perfection.
 - All we can do is fear and tremble!
 - Jesus healing demonstrated He was God incarnate to her!

- **Came and fell down before Him**
 - An expression of humility and penitence
 - Great faith has its roots in deep humility

- **And told Him all the truth**
 - Jesus didn't ask her to say anything
 - Only asked "who touched my clothes?" !!!
 - She was convicted to make a bold confession to the Lord
 - ◆ Her history of illness
 - ◆ Man's inability to heal
 - ◆ Penitent approach to the the Lord
 - ◆ Her unworthiness
 - ◆ Her miraculous and TOTAL cure by Christ!
 - At great cost when then crowd found out.
 - ◆ Didn't matter
 - ◆ Had to reveal everything
 - Jesus was supplying two major mercies:
 - 1. Enabled her to proclaim God's glory**
 - Those who haven't yet come to faith and who often do not understand it often ask, "Why is faith so highly regarded by the Lord and capable of such great things?"
 - Simple answer = **FAITH GIVES GLORY TO GOD!**
 - It humbles the sinner in the dust and causes him to realise that he is one who deserves nothing and is capable of nothing!!
 - On this account, he must present himself to God as dependent on the promise of a free compassion.
 - 2. Made the woman accept that she didn't steal His virtue**
 - IT WAS FREELY GIVEN!!!!
 - She wouldn't endure guilt after the event
 - Christ fulfilled her promise-in-faith

v34

- What was our Lord's response:
- **Daughter**
 - A loving affectionate term of endearment of one who is now in Christ's family
- **Thy faith has made thee whole**
 - Her **TRUST** - that even the least part of Christ (ie. Hem of His garment) would heal her
 - Her Action (**OBEDIENCE**) - her reaching out to touch it.
 - These components of faith, based on **HUMILITY** (dependence on God ALONE)
 - These lead to her cure - totally and immediately!
- **Go in peace:**
 - This is another grace that flows from faith and humility
 - The more faith and humility we have, the more peace we have.
 - It is an assurance that the sovereign creator is **PERSONALLY** looking out for you
 - Involves complete surrender and acknowledging that
 - ◆ All things
 - ◆ Both good and evil in our eyes
 - ◆ Accomplish our life in Christ.
 - ◆ **To glorify God and enjoy Him forever!**
 - The exaltation promised by the God.
- **And be whole of the Plague.**
 - Remain totally cured

 - Our justification is immediate and complete
 - The consequence of sin is immediately and completely removed from us
 - Still have the old nature of the flesh
 - But the promise of salvation is secured for eternity
 - **Our duty next is to grow in Holiness**

◆ **For those who don't yet have a personal relationship with Jesus:**

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:
Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return
unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly
pardon. (Is.55:6,7)

◆ **For the more mature Christian I say this:**

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good;
and what doth the Lord require of thee,
but to do justly, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with thy God? **Micah 6:8**

**May the Lord be pleased to use this clay vessel for His purpose, according to His will.
Amen.**