

The Outcasts:

(The Outcasts is a series of Bible studies based on those people whom most levels of society would consider unimportant, insignificant or even repulsive. These people are often overlooked or cast aside, as if they have nothing to give the body of Christ.

Rebels...backsliders...children...senior citizens...the handicapped...uneducated...homeless. Thankfully, God looks upon the heart and sees us for what we can become; beautiful witnesses for the Gospel of Christ. It is my prayer that through these Bibles studies you will be blessed and gain a clear vision for how the God of the Universe sees you; incredibly precious and valuable).

One Touch

By Mary Kane

Since we live in the north, my boys grew up playing hockey. My husband used to get up too early on Saturday mornings and take our little guys off to the hockey rink for practice. In the winter, when conditions were just right, we'd build an ice rink in our back yard. We had so much fun playing hockey with our family and friends in our backyard.

One cold January afternoon, I was out playing hockey with my boys and my youngest cousin. We were battling for the puck in the middle of the ice. I can't remember how I fell, but I suddenly I found myself laying on the ice with blood gushing down my face. As I sat up, I could tell from the look on my cousin's face that I must have had a significant cut. I made my way into the house and my husband helped me clean up the blood and get ready for a trip to the Med Point. Instead of hauling three little boys with us to the doctor, I decided to phone a friend and ask for her help.

Very shortly, she arrived at my house with her son and they drove me to the Med Point. It was quickly decided upon examination that I needed to have stitches. The doctor, who could not get over the fact that he had to stitch up a hockey injury on a thirty-something woman, left the room to prepare for my procedure. I was in a good deal of pain and was feeling a

little light-headed from my injury. In order to help ease the pain, my friend's little boy began to massage my feet. Instantly, I felt the stress leave my body as my attention was diverted from my head to my feet. Blessed relief! Bobby continued to rub my feet while the doctor sutured my cut. Because of Bobby's help, I made it through my stitches like a trooper!

The scar above my eye has faded as many years have passed since I received those stitches, but I have never forgotten the lesson I learned that day about the healing power of a simple touch!

Please read Luke 8:40-47.

Who was waiting for Jesus upon His return?

Jesus was on the way back the lake from healing a demon possessed man in Gadarenes. A crowd was waiting for Him on the shore.

What was their attitude towards Jesus?

They welcomed Him!

Who else was waiting for Jesus and why?

Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue was waiting for Jesus in hopes that He would come and heal his only daughter, who was dying.

What happened as Jesus made his way to the house of Jairus?

The crowd *thronged* Him. The original word for *thronged* used in this sentence is *sympnigo* which means “to choke utterly, to press round one as to almost suffocate him.” This word is used four other times in the New Testament and on every other occasion it is used to describe the “choking” of the Word so that it cannot produce fruit. Again, in this situation we see the The Word (a name for Jesus) being “choked.”

Perhaps the crowd thronged around Jesus because they heard of the great healing He had wrought for the demoniac of Gaderenes or maybe they wanted to see what He would do for the daughter of Jairus. I think Jesus attracted people wherever He went because of who He is—the Great I Am! But, someone else was waiting for Jesus that day, besides the crowd and besides Jairus; and this person had been waiting for Jesus a very long time.

Please fill in the beginning of verse 43:

“ _____, **having a flow of blood for twelve years.**”

The word *and*, (*now* in the NKJV) used in the beginning of verse 43 is used to “join a general idea to something in particular.” There is a crowd pressed around Jesus in *general*, but He has a mission with one woman in *particular*. Please do not ever feel as if you are one faceless believer among a throng of millions clamoring to see Jesus; Jesus sees you in *particular* and He knows about your suffering.

Why did the woman want to get to Jesus?

She was suffering from a “flow of blood for twelve years.” I checked a few different resources in order to gain information concerning her exact problem. Most resources agreed that her problem was menstrual in nature. Poor thing! Not only was she suffering from this unpleasant ailment, but she also would have been “ceremonially unclean,” excluded from temple worship and therefore an Outcast (for more information on

this subject please read Leviticus 15:19-33). Furthermore, anyone who came into direct contact with her would also become unclean. So as a result of her illness, this poor woman probably lost all fellowship with the people of God.

Think for a moment, how different your life would be if you were suddenly excluded from going to your church; no worship time with your Savior, no fellowship with your friends, no opportunities to serve and no wonderful teaching from the pulpit.

What would you miss the most?

According to verse 43, what else had her illness cost her?

She spent all of her livelihood, all her resources, goods and wealth, trying to become well. She tried everything the world had to offer and she literally came up empty. Please remember that all healing is from the Lord; whether He chooses to heal by medicine, a procedure, godly counselor or by taking us to heaven, all healing is from the Lord. If there is a delay in our healing, it is because God has a greater glory in mind!

In summary, due to this illness, the woman of Luke 8 lost:

- Her health: she had been ill for 12 years.
- Her worship: she was unclean, therefore unable to go to the temple.
- Her fellowship: her friends probably avoided her because they could become contaminated by her uncleanness.
- Her livelihood: she spent all of her money trying to regain her health.

What did the woman do in verse 44? How did she approach Jesus?

My heart was warmed when I read these words as I thought of the humility of her approach. She approached Jesus from behind, thinking perhaps that she was not worthy of His notice or the notice of the crowd. Somehow she knew if she could only touch Him... not even really Him... just the edge of His garment...one touch...one touch of the Master, she would be healed. Jesus was all she needed and she needed Him desperately.

Verse 44 in the NKJV reads:

"...[the woman] *came* from behind and touched the border of His garment."

As I studied the original words used in this passage, I found something interesting about the word *came*. Among other things it means "to attach one's self to Christ." This woman had tried everything that she knew of to regain her health and now she was ready to attach herself to Christ and receive healing not only for her body but for her soul as well.

Would God use an illness to bring someone to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ? I believe so. I believe that He can also use an illness to bring those who are already saved into an even closer level of relationship with Him.

What exactly did the woman touch?

Verse 44 states that she touched the "border of his garment." For many years I thought this meant that she touched the hem of his robe. This does not make sense though. It would be very hard to bend low in a crush of people and touch the hem of someone's garment. The Greek word for border used in this verse is *kraspedon* which means "the fringe of a garment, little appendage hanging down from the edge of the mantle or cloak, made of twisted wool, a tassel, tuft: the Jews had such appendages attached to their mantles to remind them of the law."ⁱ I believe the sick woman grabbed onto the fringe that decorated the edges of the prayer shawl that Jewish men wore about their shoulders.

Please read Leviticus 15:37-41.

How can we apply these verses to New Testament believers?

May the way I dress always bring glory and honor to the One that I have pledged to follow! From the Old Testament to the New Testament, the people of Israel wore mantles with fringes on them. Can you imagine something being in *fashion* for generations? I love the fact that every facet of Jewish life, down to their clothing, was a reflection of their faith in God.

Let's take a moment to examine the word *touch* used in this passage of scripture. At first glance it seems such a simple word. Probably you thought like I did that *touch* means to brush something with your fingertips almost in an accidental manner. The meaning behind this word, however, is very different from a mere brush; it means "to fasten one's self to, to adhere to, to cling to, to assail (attack, assault, overwhelm) someone." This woman did not merely touch Jesus, she clung to Him for dear life!

What happened as a result of her clinging?

She was healed. How beautiful. After twelve long years of waiting, her suffering is swept away in an instance by the touch of the Savior.

What did Jesus say in verse 45?

Why do you think He asked this question?

Do you think Jesus really did not know who touched Him? Please think about this for a moment. He already knew who touched Him. Jesus didn't just want to know who *touched* Him, after all many people were

touching Him. Jesus wanted to know who touched Him with *faith and hope* and with the intention of receiving from Him. I believe He wasn't asking this question for His benefit, but for the benefit of the crowd and the woman. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus had a habit of publically commending people who approached Him in faith for healing and forgiveness.

How did Jesus know that someone of faith had touched Him?

Because He felt power being released from Himself. Please note that in no way was Jesus any less powerful after this healing than before. Power wasn't draining from Him, it was being released. Jesus is infinitely powerful!

Why do you think she was afraid?

Finally, after the woman identified herself and testified to the healing she received, Jesus assured her that she did not steal her healing from Him, it was His will that she be healed! And all healing comes from God!

The original word for *healed* used in this verse is *iaomai* which means "to cure, to heal, to make whole, to free from errors and sin, to bring about one's salvation."ⁱⁱⁱ There is a strong connection then between healing and salvation.

Before the throng of people, Jesus publically restored not only the sick woman's health, but her position in society. No longer would she be known as The Woman with the Issue of Blood. Now she would be known as the Woman Whom Jesus Healed! Think of it! We no longer need to be known as The Woman Who Messed Up, The Man Who Fell, The Girl Who Smoked and Drank, or The Guy Who Stole; we can be known as The One Whom Jesus Healed! Like Saul in the New Testament, when we come to Jesus, He offers us a new name!

Let's look at one more Greek word in order to gain a special blessing.

By what name does Jesus address the woman in verse 48?

In the NKJV He calls her *daughter*. In the Greek this word translates as "a female descendant, a daughter (and here comes the blessing!), a daughter of God, one who is acceptable to God, rejoicing in His peculiar care and protection." At long last, she who was an Outcast, an unacceptable one, was acceptable! She was acceptable not only to man, but to God! Hallelujah!

According to verse 48, what had made the woman well?

It was her faith...not her faith in her *faith* which can waver from day to day, but her faith in *God*! What if this woman did not have faith? She would not have come to Jesus and she would have missed her healing. Faith and healing are also dependent on each other in Matthew 9:27-31, please read these verses.

How much healing did the two blind men receive?

They received as much healing as they were willing to believe Jesus capable of.

What do you need Jesus to heal for you?

In closing, what can we learn from this woman of faith, a daughter of God?

- When we are healed, Jesus wants us to share our healing with the world. Through our testimony and healing others may find their own salvation and healing in Christ. We need to tell the world of the great things He has done for us!
- Jesus uses times of illness so we can enter into a deeper level of worship and belief in Him. Due to her long health struggle, the sick woman of Luke 8 came to know Jesus as Healer and Restorer of her health. Upon healing, she was able to return to the temple for worship. Are you currently experiencing a season of ill health? Please use this time to draw closer to Jesus.
- We need to actively seek healing from God! Use all the resources that God has provided, but don't fail to approach Him first for your healing and restoration.
- Jesus' cleanness is greater than our uncleanness. Notice that according to Leviticus, if another person came into contact with an unclean person, the clean person became unclean. Not so with Jesus! His cleanness renders us clean! He is more powerful than our uncleanness! He is willing to heal you from any uncleanness!
- When we come into contact with Jesus we will be healed. The more time we spend with Jesus the healthier we will become! His Word heals us by transforming our minds!
- When we come to Jesus we will no longer be an Outcast! We are forever accepted, redeemed, chosen forgiven, holy, free and complete in Christ Jesus!

Please spend a moment in prayer and ask Jesus to work His healing in your heart, soul, mind and body.

*And Jesus went about all Galilee,
Teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom,
And healing all kinds of sickness and
All kinds of disease among the people.
Matthew 4:23*

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ⁱ Blue Letter Bible. "Dictionary and Word Search for *kraspedon* (Strong's 2899)". Blue Letter Bible. 1996-2011. 25 Feb 2011. < [http:// www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm? Strong's=G2899&t=KJV](http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong's=G2899&t=KJV) >

ⁱⁱ Blue Letter Bible. "Dictionary and Word Search for *iaomai* (Strong's 2390)". Blue Letter Bible. 1996-2011. 27 Feb 2011. < [http:// www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm? Strong's=G2390&t=KJV](http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong's=G2390&t=KJV) >