

Coach House Church BEACONS

IT STARTED WITH A THOUGHT

15TH OCTOBER 2020

It started with a thought.

Lets look at Mark, chapter 5.

Mark 5:21 says, "When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake...a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.

Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus...came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him.

'My little daughter is dying.'" I can't imagine that. "My little daughter is dying.

Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.'

So Jesus went with him."

I want to point out that certain situations will make your position irrelevant.

Certain situations will make it not matter that they call you a CEO.

When there's no peace in your home, there's no position on your job that can make you feel good about your life. So, that issue that was happening in his home brought him to a low place, even though he occupied a high position.

Now, a synagogue ruler wasn't just somebody who stood and attended. It was someone who actually had some influence, yet he finds himself at the feet of this rabbi, this radical teacher, healer, and he wants to know, "Will you help me with this issue?"

Now, Beacons are short so we have to move fast, but some of us have completely had our positions upended over the course of the last several months. We find ourselves in a place we never thought we'd be.

For Jairus, it was at Jesus' feet. That position of desperation, of course, shouldn't be unfamiliar to you but Jairus encountered something that made his position irrelevant. He did not announce himself by his title.

He demonstrated his desperation by bringing his issue to the only one he thought had the ability to fix it. I wonder if God has brought you to that place in this season of your life, where the things you used to try are no longer relieving the trouble anymore. He came to Jesus, which in itself is a miracle.

It's a miracle that he could get to Jesus, because Jesus was so popular. This is the miracle Mark is highlighting in the text, yet there is an interruption to the miracle that forms my main point for my sermon today. The reason I stop to point that out is sometimes the miracles happen in the middle of the other things you think are more important. Have you ever noticed this?

Jairus is asking Jesus to come and do something at his house. On the way, he gets interrupted, and now the thing he gets interrupted by becomes the main point of what Mark writes. Luke wrote it too. Matthew wrote it too. Mark is classifying this miracle on the basis of action. The Bible says, "A large crowd followed and pressed around Jesus. And a woman was there..." Here we go.

I want to talk to you about this woman. You ask, "What's her name?" I would tell you if Mark told me. I checked Matthew. Maybe Matthew told us. He didn't tell us. I checked Luke. Luke didn't care to mention her by name either. What we do know is that she had been subject to bleeding for 12 years. She is identified by her issue. Doesn't it suck to be identified by your issue?

She comes up to Jesus, and she's bleeding all over the place."

You couldn't see where she was bleeding. Nobody sees where you're bleeding.

That's a lonely feeling. Nobody sees what dominates and depresses you.

They see what you show them, and your feed is clean. They don't see where you're bleeding.

If you walk up bleeding from your nose, I have tissues for that.

If you walk up with blood on your face, it's going to cause me to stop in my tracks.

She was bleeding in a place no one could see.

Where you are bleeding that no one sees. Where are you hurting that no one has really heard about? Even though you generalise those places by saying, "Just pray for me; I need a financial breakthrough," really, the issue isn't that you need a financial breakthrough; it's that you don't even feel like a person anymore because you've lost your ability to provide, and if you can't even provide for your family, what good are you? You are bleeding not financially; you're bleeding on the inside. I'm bleeding, and no one sees it. Are you ready for this?

Well, Jesus did not see this woman, but he felt her presence. It said, "A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse."

Isn't it crazy how some of the ways you try to feel better make you that much worse in the end? Have you ever done something to feel better but found out it actually made it worse? Have you ever ate something to feel better, and you felt better for five minutes, but about 3:00 a.m., you're running to the toilet, talking about "It felt good"? It fixed it for a minute.

You've been doing some things that fixed it for a minute. The Bible doesn't say she never felt better. The Bible says she didn't get better.

I wonder if in this time of our lives, this time of trouble and transition and trauma and secret bleeding, if some of us are running to places where we are spending our energy and giving our attention to things that promise to make it better but end up making it worse.

Sometimes what we think is better is based on a point of reference that has no grounding in reality. Only in retrospect do you see the connection...the connection between the breaking you experienced and the blessing God had in mind, the connection between the loneliness you felt and the intimacy that was developed in that loneliness. You don't usually see those connections until later. When she made a connection... Like a computer suddenly connecting to Wi-Fi.

She accessed His power when she touched his cloak. Why did her bleeding stop? I guess you could say it was when she made a connection with Jesus, but I think there is another connection here.

I always thought her healing started when she touched his cloak, but in verse 28, we find out the bleeding stopped because she thought.

It's not stronger than me. I can stop it with a thought with faith and belief in Jesus. You are not your issue. See, we've been going through what we've been going through so long we think the issue is us, but we can stop it with a thought.

I mean, right now, the darkness that has overwhelmed you... You can stop it with a thought. Now, this woman did not get healed because she just thought. She got healed when she touched, but she only touched because she thought.

It starts with a thought. When I think of the goodness of Jesus, when I think about the Lord, how he saved me, how he raised me, how he filled me, how he healed me, how he reached down and rescued me...

You can stop it with a thought. The gates of hell will not prevail one thought about God. "My thoughts are not your thoughts." I can stop it with a thought.

I also found out thoughts are optional. I might have a thought, but I don't have to let the thought have me. I don't have to think like this, live like this, bleed like this! I don't have to die like this! Think of all of the ways he made! Think of all of the things he did! We are one thought away from joy, one thought away from healing. Thoughts are optional. Can I tell you how I know? The woman said, "If I touch him, it doesn't matter what anybody else thinks." Once you get over the fact that other people's opinions...are not limits; they are merely suggestions.

Contrary to what your parents told you, you don't have to eat everything on your plate. You don't have to believe everything in your brain. The thought is optional. Because she thought, she touched, and because she touched, the bleeding stopped. Do you know what's really crazy? Instead of getting back on the road to get to Jairus' daughter, the one who was more important, Jesus stopped in verse 30. Here we see in the Scripture the first instance of contact tracing. The Bible says Jesus stopped. So, her bleeding stopped. Jesus stopped, and he released power... There's power in a thought. She thought, she touched, and Jesus said, "I felt that."

It started with a thought. Feelings start with thoughts.

So, next time you wonder when you're in a bad mood, or something like that, like, "Oh my. It's like the weather just changed on the inside. What happened?"

Do some contact tracing with your thoughts. Some days, sunny weather makes me depressed because I think I should be outside enjoying it. Some days, rainy weather makes me depressed because it's raining.

Let your thought today be "I am a child of God."

Amen



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