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Transformed by a Touch

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Now there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. She came up behind him [Jesus] and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased..." Luke 8:42

Transformed By A Touch

This woman had sought healing from physicians, but the Bible says that no amount of money, no amount of human effort could heal her: "She could not be healed by anyone." What we often label as a lost cause, God sees as opportunity for supernatural power.

Because her hemorrhaging made her ceremoniously unclean (Lev 15:25), she had been cut off from social and religious relationships. However, it is in her uncleanness she reaches out to touch Jesus. According to Mark's account of what happened the woman said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well," Mark 5:28.

Though the blood of the woman made her unclean in the eyes of society, through the precious blood of Jesus Christ, God removed our "uncleanness," calls us by name, calls us His sons and daughters, and covers us with robes of righteousness. Paul makes it clear in Ephesians 1:7, "In [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."

In verse 44, as soon as she touched the fringe of his garment, "...Immediately her discharge of blood ceased. And Jesus said, 'Who was it that touched me?' When all denied it, Peter said, 'Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!' But Jesus said, 'Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me.' "And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.'"

Jesus didn't ask "who touched me?" because he didn't know. He asked so that the woman could understand, and so that the crowd could know, that she may have been labeled "unclean" and living in isolation and loneliness – but she was *not* hidden from Jesus. Instead of being repulsed or disgusted by her...

- Jesus responds acceptance and grace.
- Jesus responds with understanding.
- Jesus responds with peace.
- He calls her daughter.
- And He heals her.

· REFLECTION

1. What situation in your life right now feels like a lost cause, yet is an opportunity for God's power to do a miracle?
2. What in your life may be causing you to feel cut off from social or religious relationships?
3. By reaching out and touching Jesus, this woman was physically healed *and* she was given the opportunity to live in relationship with others again. Is Jesus inviting you to reach out and touch Him so that a) your relationship with God can be transformed, and b) you can draw into closer community with others?

NEWS AND RESOURCES

- [Enroll in a LifeGroup today!](#) With over 80 LifeGroups there are plenty of opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to become a part of a spiritually-transformative small group. Enrollment closes Sep 16.
- **Talk** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.

As you make the Jesus, Main Thing, the main thing throughout your week this week, may you be transformed and renewed in every way.

Blessings