

**The Woman with the Issue of Blood**

**Irvin Willis  
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Luke 8:43-48: <sup>43</sup> And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any,<sup>44</sup> Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.<sup>45</sup> And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?<sup>46</sup> And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.<sup>47</sup> And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.<sup>48</sup> And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.<sup>1</sup>

The sick, anonymous woman must have been exhausted after a hemorrhage lasting for twelve years, which rendered her legally unclean. She could not throw herself, therefore, at the feet of Christ and state her complaint. Her modesty, humility, uncleanness and pressure of the crowd made close contact well-nigh impossible, hence her eagerness to touch in some unnoticed way the hem of His garment. Who was this woman of faith? The primitive church, feeling she was entitled to a name, called her Veronica, who lived in Caesarea Philippi, but in the gospels, she is enrolled in the list of anonymous female divines.<sup>2</sup>

This woman had a great need and had the faith to come to Jesus for its resolution. The woman's healing was a demonstration of Jesus' power and His deity, and the woman recognized this. In turn, Jesus recognized her saving faith and gifted her with total healing both in body and soul. Like the man blind from birth who came to Jesus for healing and found both healing and redemption this woman found all that her heart desired in Jesus.

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1 Holy Bible: New International Version. (1978). New York Bible Society.

2 Sprangler, A. & Syswerda, Jean. (2015). Women of the Bible, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### **She was cured after many failures**

What this poor woman really endured at the hands of the medical men of the time is left to the imagination. What a touch of reality is given to her story by the knowledge that she had suffered many things of many physicians and was no better but rather “grew worse.” Where men failed, Christ succeeded. Down the ages men and women which no agency could reclaim have been restored by Christ. What is not possible with men is blessedly possible with God. Her disease was of long standing yet she was swiftly healed, for as soon as she touched the hem of His garment, “straight-way the fountain of her blood was dried up.” If a person suffers for a while from a complaint and seeks no medical advice, but in the end, goes to the doctor, he invariably says, “You should have come to me sooner.” But it is the glory of Christ that He can heal those who come late to Him <sup>3</sup>.

### **She was cured quickly**

Mark’s favorite word, “straightway,” which he uses 27 times in his gospel, is in most cases related to Christ’s rapid cures. How swift He was in His relief for the suffering! As at creation, so in His miracles of healing, “He spake and it was done.” Spiritual parallels of His instantaneous power can be seen in the conversions of Matthew, Paul and the dying thief. Many of us, too, can testify to the fact that He can transform character in a moment of time. The term Jesus used in addressing the nameless sufferer suggests that she was still young, though wasted and faded by her malady which made her look older than she was. But the nature of her disease and the age of the one afflicted made no difference to Him in healing the sick and saving the lost. As Jesus passed by the withered fingers of the woman brushed the border of Christ’s sacred

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<sup>3</sup> Stronginfaith.org

dress, and all at once her thin body felt the painless health of her girlhood return. A strength she had not known for 12 years renewed her being, and she knew that Christ had made her whole <sup>4</sup>.

### **She acknowledged receipt of the benefit bestowed**

As soon as the woman touched Christ's garment, He felt that "virtue had gone out of Him," and turned about and said, "Who touched me?" The disciples mildly rebuked Jesus by saying, "Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?" Perhaps her touch had been unnoticed by the eyes of those around, and she must have been one of many who touched the Master that day as he proceeded on His errand of love, but a touch of faith could not be hidden from Him. Quickly the Physician saw the patient, and trembling with self-consciousness but too glad and grateful to falter, she confessed to her touch of His robe. "She told him all the truth." She experienced that open confession is good for the soul. What a glow of gratitude her countenance must have had, as she publicly stated that her burden for twelve years had rolled away! <sup>5</sup>

### **She was blessed for her faith**

The crowd who listened to her confession also heard the Savior's benediction, "Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." As a true daughter of Abraham (Luke 13:16), her faith is crowned by the Master. Hers was not faith without a touch, or a touch without faith. Believing, she appropriated and was healed. "Daughter," was an endearing term for Jesus to use. Some tender insight of His own must have prompted Him to use it <sup>6</sup>.

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4 Stronginfaith.org

5 Stronginfaith.org

6 Ministrymagazine.org

The restored sufferer would never forget the friendly benignity that assailed her with one indulgent epithet or the sympathy in that endearing term by which the Messiah of Israel recognized her as His own. She cherished her debt to the Man of Galilee <sup>7</sup>.

### **Her story is forever remembered**

It is said that this woman who was healed of her plague walked with Jesus as He went to His cross, and that seeing His blood and sweat, she drew out her handkerchief and wiped His brow. Later on, as she reverently caressed the piece of linen, she found the image of the blood-stained face of Jesus imprinted on it. Face cloths for the Roman catacombs alleged to hold the impress of His features were called Veronicas. About 320, Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea and a record that when he visited Caesarea Philippi, he heard that the woman healed of her issue of blood out of gratitude for her cure had erected two brazen figures at the gate of her house, one representing a woman bending on her knee in supplication—the other, fashioned in the likeness of Jesus, holding out His hand to help her. The figure had a double cloak of brass. Eusebius adds this explicit statement as to these figures, “They were in existence even in our day and we saw them with our own eyes when we stayed in the city.” The well-known Sankey gospel hymn recalls and applies the story of the nameless woman whom Jesus healed <sup>8</sup>.

We can't “steal” a miracle from God. After the woman comes forward and explains herself, Jesus clears up any misconceptions about her healing, saying, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering”. God is moved to action by our faith, even when He's in the middle of doing something else! Jesus could have healed the woman and kept on walking to His original destination. Only He and the woman would have known what

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<sup>7</sup> Ministrymagazine.org

<sup>8</sup> Ministrymagazine.org

had taken place. But He didn't do that. Jesus stopped what He was doing and acknowledged the result of this woman's faith: her complete and instantaneous healing. We must remember as Lester Sumrall stated, "My god can do today anything he did then"<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Sumrall, Lester. (2005). *The Gifts and Ministries of the Holy Spirit*. New Kensington, Pennsylvania: Whitaker House.

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