

Duvinson Jeanty

Alliance University Spring 2023

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Final Research Question Proposal

February 28, 2023

Exegesis Research Paper Proposal

The Working Faith of the Sick Woman

Lecture reading: Mark 5:25-34

25 Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. 26 She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. 27 She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." 29 Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" 31 And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" 32 He looked all around to see who had done it. 33 But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

I. Observations

The woman was ceremonially unclean because of her physical ailment (5:25). She had been sick for twelve years and was tired of being shunned by the members of her society. She

was put on margin of that society not because of anything she had done wrong or objectionable, but simply because of the stipulations of the Law of Moses. Her physical, psychological, and emotional pain was unbearable. “After spending all that she had and was not getting any better, but rather grew worse” (26b), she bravely took matters in her own hands. She entered into a big crowd who was following Jesus and faithfully touched his cloak- she was healed instantaneously.

II. Interpretation

She had an unshakable faith. In spite of her chronic hemorrhage, she entered the crowd. As a result of her brave and calculated action, she was able to make her way through in the unique goal of touching Jesus’s garment. As soon as she got close to Him, she reached out for His cloak and faithfully touched it. “Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease” (29). By faith, things worked out for her just as she had originally planned.

Another issue that percolated in the back of her mind is that she was also very tired of being ostracized and lived in margin of her society. By her brave action, she ignored the punishment she might have gotten had she got caught. She did exactly what she had planned and hoped for and courageously fulfilled her ardent desire of being healed; at the same time, she had proven herself as being not only a faithful woman, but also a strategic planner because she executed her plan exactly the way that she intended to. In addition, she exhibited a lot of courage and a willingness to be healed so that her social status might be restored.

What a courageous woman! What a faith! What a lesson! What a story! Jesus might have probably said in His heart, ‘I have not seen such a faith either in Jerusalem or among my disciples.’

III. Application

What about for us today? What would be some application? How would we apply our faith if we want to get the same results that she had? She had faith in the Lord and she made her faith work for her. Should not we do the same? What is holding us up?

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