

Duvinson Jeanty

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NT622.OA/722.OA: Mark (English & Greek Texts)

Dr. Shawn Craigmiles

Draft Outline of my Final Paper

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Exegesis Paper

1. Text/Passage: Mark 5:25-34

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. 30 Immediately aware that power had gone forth 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 whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

II. Observations

The woman was suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years (25). As per the Law of Moses, she was ceremonially unclean and her vaginal bleeding prevented her from being in close contact with people of her own entourage, voire entering into a big crowd. To that effect, the

Law is crystal clear. Referring to the sickness of the woman, the Law of Moses stipulates that, “If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, not at the time of her impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond the time of her impurity, all the days of the discharge she shall continue in uncleanness; as in the days of her impurity, she shall be unclean” (Leviticus 15:25). It is clear to me that during those long twelve and painful years she was shunned by the members of her society. Having been tired of that state of fact and having heard about all the miracles that the Man Jesus was performing, her faith grew. She said in herself, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well” (28). At that time she was not thinking about her doctors anymore since, “She had endured much under her physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse” (26). Certainly, by her courage and her determination, she shocked the minds of the members of her society by physically entering the crowd and touched Jesus’s cloak. “Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease” (29).

III. Interpretation

She had an unshakable faith. In spite of her chronic hemorrhage, she courageously entered the crowd in the unique goal of touching Jesus’ garment and to be healed of her disease. As soon as she got close to Her healer, she reached out for His cloak and faithfully touched it. As a result of her brave and calculated action, her hemorrhage stopped; and she was healed instantaneously. 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 being forced to live in marge of her society. By her resolute and daring 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.

IV. Application

This is a good lesson of faith that believers in Christ need to emulate. The bleeding woman heard that Jesus was in town and He was healing all sorts of diseases including people with unclean spirits. At the same moment, she got up and said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well” (28). She had faith in what she heard. “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). Not only do we hear the Word, but we also read it. Hence, there is no reason whatsoever for us not to apply our faith like the woman did and come out with the same results.

However, there is a caveat. In our world today we are not going to see Jesus physically and be able to reach out for his garment like the woman did. Nonetheless, we can do it by faith. Jesus is with us in Spirit and in truth. We need to exercise our faith like the heroes of faith did. They saw neither Jesus nor God but they believed. The writer of the epistle of Hebrews, on the eleventh chapter of his book, laid down the names of those, “Who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight” (Hebrews 11:32-34). All of these were done by faith. Hence, faith is the machine that turns and runs the heart of the believer and makes things happen. Faith is the key

that opens the gates of heaven. That is exactly why the Scriptures say, “Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Heb. 11:6). That bleeding woman sought Jesus. As a result of that, she got her reward: she was healed after twelve long unbearable, demeaning, humiliating, embarrassing, and endless years of hemorrhage. Our God is a God of mercy and grace. He is also a God of compassion. “He upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down (by faith)” (Psalm 145:14, NRSV).

As far as we are concerned, if we want to apply the lesson of that bleeding woman in our lives, first of all, we need to believe blindly, faithfully. Secondly, we got to, “But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord” (James 1:6-7). Thirdly, we must act by faith and think that we had already obtained what we are looking for and it will be given to us. “Ask (faithfully), and it will be given to you; search (faithfully), and you will find; knock (faithfully), and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks (faithfully) receives, and everyone who searches (faithfully) finds, and for everyone who knocks (faithfully), the door will be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).

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