

How Can I Have Faith Like Her? Mark 5.24-34, 8.7.16

Intro

1. Being struck by someone's faith and seeing God do amazing things through their lives
2. Mark 5.24-34
3. Big Idea: Faith means that I am fully persuaded that Jesus will do something.

Desperation Does Not Equal Faith - 5.25-26

- This is where we are mistaken. We think her desperation is what motivated her to seek Jesus, but her need was secondary to her faith. **A person's great need does not translate into a great faith.**
 - Appl – I see a lot of desperate situations and many have no or little faith. Desperation is often the breeding ground for unbelief.
- She was desperate:
 - 12 years of bleeding;
 - She was ritually unclean based on the OT law – Lev.15.25ff;
 - This kept her from normal social relations; probably not married; might have only minimal contact with the people; everything she touched she made it unclean; every day she experienced the sting of the law; can you imagine having a person walk around with you every moment always pointing out your faults and short comings; she was isolated
 - She saw many doctors;
 - She was wiped out financially;
 - She only got worse as the disease progressed.
- There were a lot of people around Jesus who were desperate...a great throng of people, but she was the only one healed. They were all waiting for him to reach out to them and she understood she needed to reach out to Him.
 - They thought, "If He'll just stop & pray for me; command whatever go away then I will be healed." She thought, "I already know what He wants to do; I will just reach out to Him."
 - Appl - There are a lot of desperate people just waiting for God to do something. "If it's His will then He will heal me; restore my relationships; He will meet this need; he'll just show me what to do, etc."
 - Appl - One group in this room is waiting for God to do something and the other is actively believing , seeking and reaching out to God.
 - It is a much more mature faith when you are actively reaching out knowing what His will is for you. You have confidence and expectation.
 - Her faith was motivating her to action; their needs were motivating them to action. God takes us where we are, but coming to Him in fully persuaded in His love and power is a lot more mature than just coming to Him in desperation.

Your Answer Starts With Your Thinking – 5.27-28

- She “thought” to herself – Your answer is directly connected to your thought life. She was convinced that Jesus would heal her. She knew His heart and will for her. She was fully persuaded that Jesus would do something. Her healing started in her thinking.
- Appl – It normally begins in our mind. Sometimes God intervenes sovereignly when we have little or no faith, but most of the time God responds when He sees our faith.
 - **Heb.11.6 – It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.**
 - We do not need to struggle with God’s will concerning most matters of life. There are specific things that may take time to discern, but what God wants to do in general is fairly clear. If you want a visual on God’s will, look at Gen.1 & 2 and the life and ministry of Jesus.
- How did she become persuaded in her mind?
 - V.27 – She heard about Jesus. She heard the stories and testimonies of people touched by Him. She listened with great interest and then interest turned into being fully persuaded. She was convinced of his love (that He wanted to do something) and power (that He had the ability to do something) that were revealed in the current stories. She knew the stories of God’s power revealed to her forefathers and she believed that Jesus was the Messiah. I think there were three ingredients of her faith:
 - God’s activity in Israel’s past and ;
 - The testimonies of others; the current activity of Jesus changing people’s lives.
 - She was convinced He was the Savior of the world (He calls her ‘daughter’).
 - Appl – For you:
 - Believe in what God did in the past as revealed in Scripture in both testaments and that He still speaks to us through them.
 - Convinced of the testimonies of God’s activity in people’s lives;
 - You must share your stories of God’s activity both past and present. Testimonies build faith! It pushes us to believe God for more.
 - Ill – Pakistan testimonies are fueling my prayer and expectancy of God’s activity. Hearing of church growth, salvation, healing, government support, health & education initiatives through Christian work.
 - BCN Stories
 - Genuine faith in Jesus as your King.
 - Appl - All three are necessary as a counterbalance to each other. If I have faith and the current testimonies, but there is no foundation in the Word, then when things aren’t moving forward or are set back or faith is deeply shaken.

You Do Whatever Is Necessary To Get The Answer – 5.27

- **She got out of her comfort zone** as a social outcast. She was accustomed to being alone and isolated, but now she had to break out of that mold and move to her healing. She had to do what was uncomfortable to get her answer.
 - Appl – The hardest thing for everyone to do is to get outside of what we are comfortable doing, but desperation will motivate you. Pain is often the engine behind change.
 - For some, your healing, answer or breakthrough will only come when you take the risk and get out of your comfort zone. “I am going for it.” There’s the concern about how

people will respond and will you have enough money, etc. Your answer is on the other side of your comfort zone.

- Working on reconciliation, dealing with financial messes, seeking the assistance of others for guidance...might make you uncomfortable (I don't want anyone to know my business!), but your answer is on the other side of your comfort zone.
- **She broke the OT law.** Everyone she brushed against was now ceremonially unclean and they had to take a bath. This is probably why she approached Jesus from the back so he and others would not see her and it is why she so quickly ducked back into the crowd. She did not know how Jesus might respond to her. Once she was revealed, the crowd would have called her out and distanced themselves from her.
 - Appl – The Law represents your old mindsets, patterns, habits or ways of doing things. It is mental models. When you find that what you are currently doing is not getting you the answers and satisfaction you need then you must move forward in other areas.
 - Traditions or old religious patterns that once served well, but now it is time to move forward into new practices and activities.
 - It may not be the big breakthrough. Your answer may be in consistent physical exercise, deciding to eat healthy every day, going to the doctor, staying on a medication, going to counseling for a long time, breaking from a negative relationship, downsizing, breaking a negative influence, etc. We want God to do the instantaneous and He might, but most of life is about a process of change.
- **She fought the crowds** – she could have just prayed, waited, hoped
 - Appl – the crowds represent the obstacles in your path. These are things you have to push through in your faith. You can't be reactive, but you must be proactive with these things.
 - Obstacles to our Faith from July 24, 2016
 - They may include things like great hurt, trauma, unforgiveness, betrayal, people, finances, health problems, mental issues, etc.
 - It is an unconquerable giant – “it's too big, too much...this is the way we are responding to all forms dementia. Once people get diagnosed most lose faith. We need to believe God for both medical and miracle breakthroughs. This is the way it used to be with cancer diagnosis, but now we see both medical and miracles. Jesus has dominion over dementia.
- Summary – Are you doing everything that is necessary for your answer?
 - What is the comfort zone you need to break from
 - What is the old mindsets/beliefs
 - What are the crowds or obstacles you need to press through
 - Are you doing the things that God requires – Heb.11
 - Abel – giving God your tithe. God promises to protect and bless.
 - Enoch – seeking after God wholeheartedly
 - Noah – being obedient to God

You Are Fully Persuaded That Jesus Will Change Your Situation – 5.27-28

- There was active engagement with her faith and an expectation that something would change. Jesus felt it. He said, “Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out of me.” (L.8.46)
 - Appl – We have to believe that when we are reaching out to Jesus in faith that whether I feel it, see it, inwardly know it that he is reaching out to me. You must believe that He

hears your prayers and He is acting on your behalf. We need to understand that there are many things interfering with His response: my sins, faith level, other's actions, demonic realm,

- Noticed what changed for her:
 - Her body was changed – she was healed. She didn't know when, but she knew He would.
 - Her identity was changed – “Daughter”. The only time Jesus is recorded referring to a lady as a daughter. She is a child of God; she is no longer an outcast and outsider; she is no longer under the penalty of the Law, but experiencing the grace and forgiveness of God. She experiences the embrace of the Father.
 - What made her a daughter? Faith in Jesus and the same is true for you.
 - Her situation in life was changed – “Go in peace.” This woman had not been in peace for 12 years. She could now live under the “shalom” of God which is more than peace of mind, but includes the “rest of God.”
- Appl – As we reach out to Him in faith and He responds to our requests He goes deeper than what we anticipate. We think on one level – healing – and he thinks on multiple – healing, identity, financial productivity, restoration of relationships. God is into “more than enough.”
 - Stephanie's healing is far deeper than Parkinson, but it involves the renewal of her mind, which is changing how she relates to life events, people, financial needs, etc.

Conclusion

- Appl - Jesus is moved by people of faith – 5.32. He was looking with a penetrating stare b/c He wanted to commend her. If you want to grab the stare of Jesus be fully persuaded He is going to do something!
 - Roman Officer – Luke 7. He was amazed by His faith.
 - Mk.11 – is the promise to the faith filled. When I know I am praying things that are in accordance with God's will then I can be confident that I will have it.
 - 2 Chron.16 – The eyes of God are looking over the earth to strengthen those who are fully turned to Him.