

Many Healings in One
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Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Mark 5:25-29

Do we realize, in our modern day, the depth of pain and humiliation this unnamed woman lived with every day? Older translations call her hemorrhage an "issue of blood", and that issue of blood damaged her life on multiple levels. The laws of her religion decreed that she was "unclean", and demanded that she not be touched, even by her husband, if she were married. She couldn't attend worship at her town's synagogue, much less in the temple in Jerusalem. She was unable to have children and in these ancient days, a woman's worth was measured by the number of sons she could produce. After having had so many years of losing blood, she undoubtedly felt weak and sick much of the time. She'd spent every cent she had and had just gotten worse. And, because of her condition, she was socially isolated as well as spiritually.

What a difficult, deeply painful life this woman was living. There was no way she could come openly to Jesus for healing, however desperate her need. But God gave her faith in Jesus that was powerful and specific: she believed with all her heart that if she could just touch the hem of his robe, she would be healed. What courage she must have had to make her way through the crowd! At any moment, she could be discovered and cruelly rebuked and forced to leave. But God made a way, and her faith was rewarded: she touched Jesus clothes, and knew immediately she'd been healed.

Often, the healing we need isn't only physical. We need healing of our hearts, emotions, spirit, past, and present. We need healing for grief and loss. We need healing to help us forgive and go on. Jesus knows exactly what kind of healing we need, and he's faithful to provide it. Can we be as courageous as this nameless woman? Healing awaits us!