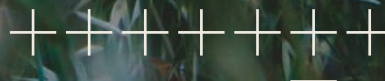


WEEK 6

THE WONDER OF COMPASSION

JESUS HEALS A WOMAN WITH AN
ISSUE OF BLOOD

*"Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in
peace. Your suffering is over." -Mark 5:34*



Day 1: Monday

Scripture: *Mark 5:21-36*

WHAT SUFFERING CAN PRODUCE

Last week, we studied the story of Jairus' daughter. Before Jesus reaches the bedside of his dying child, He stops for a woman whose suffering has lasted twelve long years. These two stories are intentionally intertwined in Mark's gospel. One girl has lived for twelve years and is dying. One woman has been living like the dead for twelve years: bleeding, isolated, unseen. Mark places these stories together so we read each one in the light of the other.

It's essential to recognize that not every miracle functions in the same way. Sometimes Jesus acts first, and faith follows; His display of power awakens trust. At other times, faith has been slowly formed long before the miracle ever comes. As Craig Blomberg observes, *"A miracle...can be designed to produce or strengthen faith...or it can be worked in response to faith (as it is here)."* For twelve years, this woman had suffered in every way imaginable. Her condition drained her physically and financially and cut her off socially and spiritually. Mark tells us she had "suffered a great deal from many doctors", yet only grew worse. The very people she trusted to help her had let her down. After so many failed treatments and so much disappointment, it would have been entirely understandable for her to lose hope, not only in healing, but in the possibility that her life could ever be restored.

Under Levitical law, her bleeding made her ceremonially unclean. She was barred from worship, excluded from the community, and forbidden to touch others. She lived on the margins, unseen and unnamed. Yet somewhere in the long stretch of her suffering, something was formed in her. Pain did not erase her faith; it refined it. Desperation did not harden her heart; it pushed her toward Jesus. Her suffering produced courage. It has taught her where to turn when every other option has failed. When Jesus stops and speaks to her, He names what has been taking shape all along: *"Your faith has made you well"* (v. 34). Her healing is not just physical. She is restored publicly, relationally, and spiritually. What years of suffering had stripped away, Jesus gives back in a moment of grace.

This miracle reveals a deeper truth: faith is often forged slowly in places of disappointment, waiting, and loss. Long-term suffering can become the soil where deep trust grows, not because the suffering is good, but because Jesus meets us in it. The quiet faith formed in this woman over years of anguish moved her to reach out to the One who could bring true healing.

Reflection

Name something you've carried longer than you expected. Where have you felt let down or tempted to lose hope? What might it look like to allow that pain to deepen your faith and lead you to reach for Jesus in the midst of it courageously?

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: Mark 5:21-34, Psalm 130, Hebrews 13:6-8

IT'S TIME TO MOVE TOWARD JESUS

Both Jairus and this woman approached Jesus in desperation, but it begs a question for us: Why do we often wait until we are desperate to ask Jesus to intervene? Do we believe He can still act in the supernatural ways that interrupt ordinary life with divine power and grace? The woman with the issue of blood had waited twelve long years through pain, unanswered prayers, and quiet disappointment. Her waiting was not wasted. It likely refined her in ways that nothing else could. She likely did not know whether this miracle worker she had heard about could actually help her, but she had the courage to move toward Him anyway. She took a risky step of faith, entering the crowd and reaching out for help. In a crowd pressing in on Him, where many were touching Him, Jesus stopped. He perceived that *"healing power had gone out from him"* and asked, *"Who touched my clothes?"* Jesus wanted more than to heal a body; He wanted a personal encounter. He drew her out of hiding and said, *"Daughter, your faith has healed you."*

This miracle shows us that His supernatural power is intentional and relational. Sometimes Jesus intervenes immediately, and sometimes He asks us to wait. In the waiting, our faith is refined, our expectations are challenged, and our vision of who Jesus is becomes clearer. Mark's Gospel invites us to recover wonder, not by chasing the miracle, but by remembering who Jesus is. As N.T. Wright reminds us, *"There is still room for us to creep up behind Jesus, if that's all we feel we can do, and reach out to touch him, in that odd mixture of fear and faith that characterizes so much Christian discipleship."*

Discipleship is how we recover the wonder of our Savior. As we walk with Jesus through Scripture, prayer, and obedience, we are reminded of who He is and what He can do. Following Him shapes our identity, strengthens our trust, and keeps us from shrinking Jesus down to what feels manageable or predictable. Many people brushed against Jesus that day, but only one reached out in faith and touched Him. To recapture the wonder of Jesus, we begin where this woman did: by leaning into the stories of who He is, daring to believe that His power is not confined to the past, and taking one small, brave step toward Him.

Reflection

Where has disappointment or familiarity diminished your sense of wonder? How might intentional discipleship help you remember who Jesus is and what He can do? Ask Him to forgive the places where we diminish our expectations of His power. Ask him to restore your wonder and belief in His power, mercy, love, and grace. Ask Him to help you wait with hope and expectancy.

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: *Mark 5:25-34, Psalm 73*

THE CARE AND TOUCH OF JESUS

The woman with the bleeding condition had spent twelve years seeking help, but nothing worked until she touched Jesus' garment. In that moment, her faith connected with His holiness, and healing flowed. Jesus notices what others overlook; He sees not just the crowd, but the individual in need. He doesn't wait for perfection or the perfect moment. He notices and responds to faith reaching out to Him.

In the Old Testament, only things ritually purified or holy could convey holiness or healing when touched (Exodus 29:37; 30:29; Leviticus 6:18,27). Objects like the altar, priestly garments, and offerings were set apart for God's purposes. Touching them could symbolically confer consecration or life. The woman's condition made her ritually unclean under the law, meaning she could not fully participate in the religious life of Israel.

Jesus is holy, consecrated, and filled with God's presence. Everything about Him is set apart for God's work. When the woman touched Him, she was touching the source of ultimate holiness, not just a symbol or ritual object. Just as touching a purified object in the Old Testament could bring consecration, touching Jesus brought healing and restored her life. He is the living fulfillment of the ritual laws: the source of true holiness, cleansing, and wholeness. Unlike a ritual object, Jesus requires faith. The woman had to believe that simply touching His garment would heal her. This shows the difference between the law and the living Christ: holiness and power are not mechanical, but relational and responsive to faith.

The Old Testament taught that contact with purified things could confer holiness. In Mark 5, Jesus Himself is the purified, consecrated One, and touching Him in faith brings life, healing, and restoration, far surpassing the symbolic effects of the law. Jesus' holiness is contagious. The closer we get to Him, the more it rubs off on us.

Reflection

Today, slow down and look for where Jesus might be inviting you to pause. Where in your life are you waiting, overlooked, or desperate for healing: physical, emotional, or spiritual? How might Jesus be inviting you to reach out to Him in faith, even in a small, simple way?

Day 4: Thursday

Scripture: Mark 5:33, Psalm 34, Romans 4:16-25

WHERE FEAR MEETS COMPASSION

Mark says the woman came to Jesus *"frightened and trembling."* Though healed, she fears being seen in all her honest vulnerability. Jesus meets her honesty not with shame, but with compassion. He draws her out into the open so that He can restore dignity, wholeness, and community. N.T. Wright observes that Jesus is not performing magic for a distant audience. The woman's faith, by itself, has no power, but it reaches out to the One who does have power. Even her trembling faith counts, because she is participating in God's renewing work. This woman's story shows that faith often risks us coming to Him with our vulnerability and the truths we would rather hide. But when we come, He meets us where we are, and we are fully seen, fully known, and fully loved.

"Clearly, it was Jesus' power, but he says, 'Your faith has rescued you.' The answer must be that faith, though itself powerless, is the channel through which Jesus' power can work... And faith, however much fear and trembling may accompany it, is the first sign of that remaking, that renewal, that new life."

- N.T. Wright

In Psalm 34, David does not say fear disappeared before he sought the Lord; he says he sought the Lord with his fear. Verse 5 says, *"Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces."* This psalm reframes fear as a starting point rather than a spiritual failure, reminding us that God does not shame fearful seekers.

Fear, when turned toward God, becomes the very space where God's presence can be experienced most deeply. It is a place of awe, wonder, and reverence where He meets us. The reminder of Abraham in Romans 4 also helps us understand that faith is not certainty, perfect confidence, or the absence of fear, but a trust in who God is and what he can do. Abraham's faith relied on God's power, not his circumstances, and the woman's faith works the same way. She does not know how Jesus will respond, but she knows that he can heal, so she comes, in all her honesty and vulnerability, to the compassionate, powerful feet of Jesus.

Reflection

Where might Jesus be inviting you to seek Him with honesty and vulnerability, even with fear and trembling, trusting that He will meet you there? Come to Jesus honestly today. Speak the whole truth to Him without editing, minimizing, or hiding.

Day 5: Friday

Scripture: *Mark 5:25-34; Psalm 147:1-11*

RESTORED FULLY

In Jesus' day, this woman was not only physically suffering, but according to Israel's purity laws, her condition rendered her continually unclean. As Craig Blomberg explains, "*Various kinds of sicknesses, disabilities, or bodily discharges could render one more or less permanently unclean, so the social ostracism became a worse malady than the physical discomfort.*"

For twelve long years, her life was defined by exclusion. When she reaches out and touches Jesus' garment, she is healed immediately, but Jesus does not allow the story to end there. He ensures that her healing is not private or partial, but complete. What Jesus offers is more than physical relief; it is complete restoration.

Jesus publicly names her "Daughter", the only time He addresses a woman this way in the Gospels. With that single word, her belonging and identity is affirmed. She is no longer defined by her condition, her shame, or her isolation. She has been fully cleansed, sanctified, and her place among God's people reclaimed. She is now free to walk in this new identity as a sanctified child of God. Here, Jesus takes on the role of a priest, pronouncing her clean and restoring her to worship, yet He does this outside the familiar temple system. This moment quietly anticipates what is coming: Jesus Himself will become the place where true cleansing and restoration are found.

As D. A. Carson observes, Jesus' healings are consistently interpersonal because God's salvation is ultimately about a restored relationship with a personal God. The "mystery of the kingdom" is not merely an idea; it is Jesus Himself, drawing near and making whole. This story also points us forward to the cross. The woman's restoration reveals the beauty of Jesus bringing wholeness, peace, and belonging. He will bear rejection and suffering, so others can be restored.

As we move toward Holy Week, we are reminded that what sin, suffering, and shame strip away, Christ restores by stepping into suffering for our sake. He invites us not only to seek relief, but to receive restoration: of identity, relationship, and belonging.

Reflection

Sit quietly with this truth and let it settle deeply in your heart: Jesus wants a deeper relationship with you that brings peace to your suffering and restores you back to life.

Day 6: Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Mark 5:25-34* and focus on the Wonder of Jesus' Compassion, take a minute to reflect on how Jesus has shown compassion to you. Reflect on places in your life where you still need his healing power to restore and spend some time bringing those before him.

Reflect on how these words shape our lives. Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompt:

- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus and how does this change the way I follow Him?
 - What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
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Day 7: Sunday

Rest Day

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

