

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Mark 5:25-34.**
- B. In our age of mass production, an ever expanding population and a world of insensitivity “the personal touch” is all but lost. We appreciate those who put great pride into their work. Instead of speaking to a real person we push “1” on the phone, etc.
- C. This morning’s lesson deals with the personal touch that Jesus had with His followers and the personal touch of one who believed in Him.

I. MAN’S ANSWERS DON’T WORK.

- A. Scripture text: Mark 5:26.
and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse,
- B. This woman had tried many remedies all to no avail. In fact, Mark here records that she is now even worse after seeing all the different doctors. Luke, as a physician is bit more kind in Lk. 8:43.
And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone,
- C. But truly, that is the way it is with those who trust in man’s wisdom for direction in life. Man’s way does not work, and often makes life worse.
- D. Man is a very intelligent creature, yet his wisdom is quite lacking in some areas. Man will never find God on his own. Man’s greatest bits of wisdom will be those that lead him to God (Rom. 1:20-22; 1Cor. 1:18-21).
(Rom 1:20-22) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, (1Cor 1:18-21) For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.” 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
- E. Sometimes we just think that in certain situations that we can throw away the rules and still work things out on our own terms. This is not true.
- F. The very familiar verse of Proverbs that shows the futility of man’s wisdom. This woman had tried human resources to solve her problem and had come up empty (Prv. 14:12).
There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

II. THE WOMAN HAD GREAT FAITH IN JESUS.

- A. Scripture text: Mark 5:28, 34.
For she thought, “If I just touch His garments, I shall get well.”... 34 And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”
- B. After trying everything she could see, the woman then tried something she couldn’t see. She tried faith.
- C. And why not? Jesus had done so many things. All she wanted to do was touch His clothing in the hopes of getting well.
- C. She couldn’t be helped by others and she couldn’t help herself. Jesus said, “Your faith has made you well.” The doctors didn’t heal here and she didn’t heal herself, but Jesus made it happen (because of her great faith). In the final analysis—all healing is divine healing.
- E. Advice, money, looks, wisdom, long life spans, etc., are not the answers to life’s problems. Jesus Christ is the answer.

III. JESUS IS INTERESTED IN THE INDIVIDUAL.

- A. Scripture text: Mark 5:30-31.
And immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" 31 And His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"
- B. With the large crowd and many people bumping into Jesus one could easily see how many people who were in need of help would be "lost in the crowd."
- C. However, with Jesus, it is impossible to be "lost in the shuffle."
- D. Illustration: in sociology class at EIU, I was just a number.
- E. The Bible says that God knows every one of the stars and not one of them is missing His attention. Man has counted over one trillion stars and is still counting. Now it only seems reasonable to me that if God can keep track of over one trillion stars, He can also know everything about the 6 billion people who live on this planet.
- F. Jesus loves and cares for every individual (see Lk. 15:1-10). This is the testimony of the parables of the lost sheep, coin, and son.

IV. JESUS CAN BE TOUCHED WITH OUR PAIN AND OUR HURT.

- A. Scripture text: Mark 5:30.
And immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?"
- B. I go back to 5:30 for a reason. He is a Savior who can be touched and will touch. The woman did not just touch His garments, but touched Jesus in a very meaningful way.
- C. When we reach out for Jesus and really mean it He responds to us as well. He touched the leper (Mt. 8:1-3).
And when He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. 2 And behold, a leper came to Him, and bowed down to Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." 3 And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
- D. Those in the crowd would bump and touch Jesus but really didn't have the time or the concern to really reach for Him.
- E. Jesus knows all about our struggles and will provide the personal touch (Heb. 2:14, 18; 4:15-16).
(Heb 2:14) Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil;... 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. (Heb 4:15-16) For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. "The Personal Touch" is seen in both the woman and in JC.
- B. The woman showed the personal touch in her great faith and in her turning to Jesus from the wisdom and practices of the world.
- C. Jesus shows the personal touch by His being able to be touched with our problems and adversities. He is interested in the individual.
- D. The question I leave you with is "When are you going to reach out for Jesus?"
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.