

**BIBLE STORY: TOUCHING THE HEM OF JESUS' GARMENT**

Luke 8:40-56

**Central Thoughts**

- Jesus' saving power passed through His garment to heal the woman with the flow of blood, teaching us that Jesus' power is also given through the earthly elements of water, bread and wine in the Sacraments.
- The power of the Sacraments comes from God's Word alone.
- By Jesus' Word the little girl was raised from the dead.
- Faith only believes the Word of God; and by the Word of God Jesus' salvation is delivered to us.

**Discussion Questions**

Why were the multitudes waiting for Jesus and "thronging" about Him?

*To hear His life-giving Word.*

Why did Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, seek Jesus help?

*His twelve-year-old daughter lay at the point of death.*

Why did the woman with the flow of blood approach Jesus for healing?

*She had been sick for twelve years and spent all of her livelihood to be made well, but no physician could heal her.*

How did the woman's twelve-year flow of blood affect her life?

*It meant that she was unclean. In this condition, she could no longer worship in the synagogue or have a normal married life with her husband. She was alone and cut off from having fellowship with others.*

What would happen to a man if he were to have touched this woman?

*He would have become unclean.*

Why does this woman secretly touch the hem of Jesus' garment?

*She knows and believes that she is an unclean, unworthy sinner, but that if she could but touch the hem of His garment His saving power would cleanse her and heal her.*

What do we learn about Jesus when God the Father permitted Him to be touched by this woman and when He permitted the healing power to go out from Jesus, through His garment, to this woman?

*That Jesus came into the world to make the uncleanness of our sin, sicknesses, and death His own, in order to redeem us with His blood. He became unclean for us and died for our sins, in order that we might be declared "clean" and "forgiven" for Jesus' sake.*

What do we learn from the example of this woman receiving Jesus' healing through an ordinary earthly garment, and from Jesus' own words about power going out from Him through His garment?

*We learn that ordinary earthly elements, like water, bread and wine, are able to deliver the gifts of Jesus' salvation to us.*

How are ordinary earthly elements able to do this?

*By the power of Jesus' Word alone*

Why does Jesus ask the question, "Who touched me?"

*To draw this woman out to confess her faith publicly, just as our participation in the Lord's Supper is a public confession of our faith in Jesus.*

What does the woman confess?

*That she is the unworthy sinner, but that Jesus is her righteous and faithful Savior.*

What does Jesus say to her after her confession?

*"Daughter, be of good cheer, your faith has made you well. Go in peace."*

What did Jesus' words mean?

*His words were words of absolution. Her faith made her well because her faith was only in Jesus and His Word. It is as if He said to her, "Be of good cheer, your Jesus has made you well."*

What did the messengers from Jairus's house tell him after they brought word that his daughter had died?

*"Don't trouble the teacher any longer." It is as if they believed that there was no longer any hope because the child had died.*

What does Jesus tell Jairus?

*"Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."*

What was Jairus to believe and trust in?

*He was to trust only in Jesus and His Word. This is the same faith by which we are to approach the Lord's Supper.*

What is death to Jesus and the believing Christian?

*Since Jesus has conquered death, it is not to be feared but thought of as nothing more than the body at sleep.*

How does Jesus raise Jairus's daughter from the dead?

*By His all-powerful Word, "Little girl, arise."*

How do all of the blessings of Jesus' death and resurrection come to us with the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation?

*By His Word.*

### **Meditation on the Bible Story**

How can bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus? How can the Lord's Supper give us forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation? The Word of Jesus creates the miracle of the Lord's Supper and gives us all the blessings of salvation that Jesus earned for us in His death and resurrection. The power of Jesus that went out through His earthly garment to heal the woman with the flow of blood, and the divine Word of Jesus that raised Jairus' daughter from the dead illustrate the truth of the Catechism: "How can bodily eating and drinking do such things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins." Jesus words to Jairus teach us that we are to approach the Lord's Supper in repentance with faith in Jesus' Word in the Lord's Supper. "Do not be afraid; only believe My promise of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in My body and blood." When we receive the Lord's Supper in this faith we, like the woman who was cleansed, can "be of good cheer" and depart the Lord's Supper in the peace of sins forgiven and in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life.

### **Prayer on the Bible Story**

Heavenly Father, the power of Jesus' salvation passed through His earthly garment and healed the woman of her flow of blood, and by a word of grace He raised Jairus' little girl to new life and restored her to her parents. So grant us to believe with confidence that by Your Word all the gifts of Jesus' salvation are, indeed, given to us through the ordinary earthly elements of water, bread, and wine in the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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