

## It's Within Your Reach!!



In the eighth chapter of Luke, we find the story of Jesus' healing of the woman with the issue of blood. It is a well-known story of faith. It is a story of a woman who desperately approached Jehovah-rapha as her last hope for healing and restoration. But what is not often pointed out is that the unnamed woman received her healing as Jesus was on His way to heal someone else.

That's not unusual. After all, Jesus healed numerous people during His earthly ministry, and He has healed countless others since. In John 21:25, we read: "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written." So, the fact that He was going to help someone else is not unusual. What is striking about the account is the way each of the gospel writers recounts the encounter and Jesus' undeterred accomplishment of His original goal.

Jesus had just completed the miracle of cleansing the demon-possessed man when Jairus came to Him, begging that He come to his home to heal his daughter. Jesus did not hesitate. But as He went, with people pressing Him on every side, this unnamed woman touched His robe with purpose. In response to her act of faith, Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" He knew because He had felt virtue go out of Him, but He used the opportunity of the woman's faith to give His disciples, and the people, another example of His power. He stopped to speak to the woman, leaving Jairus in limbo. Jesus was on His way to heal Jairus' daughter, and now He was talking with this unclean woman. I cannot imagine what must have been going through Jairus' mind. Maybe he was thinking, "I need You, Lord, and I need you **now!**" Or maybe, "How can You be spending time with **her?**" Jesus never got in a hurry, and His response to Jairus was telling. He told him, in effect, "Don't worry; I've got this. Just trust me and believe."

We are still thinking and acting the same way. Like the woman with the issue of blood, we try everything we know to do to fix our problems. When nothing else works, **then** we turn to Jesus, often in shame, always in desperation. At other times, when we come to Jesus, our faith is not where it ought to be. We believe, but we still have doubt. When we finally decide to go to Jesus for help, we want Him to come to our rescue right now, to the exclusion of everyone and everything else. We think that all that matters is what we need.

These miracles remind us that we should never doubt Jesus. Our view of the situation is usually distorted because we are looking through the lens of fear and unbelief. It doesn't matter if we receive our answer the minute we call or if it seems that others have gotten ahead of us. We must remember that Jesus doesn't run out of anything, so we don't have to worry if it seems to us that He has delayed in coming. Our timing is not His timing. If we can just believe, in spite of what we see, we will **know** that all things are possible with God. Oh, yea, it also helps if we start with Him rather than coming to Him as our last resort.

Whatever you need, it's within your reach. Joy? It's within your reach! Peace? It's within your reach! Hope? It's within your reach! Prosperity? It's within your reach! Healing? It's within your reach! All you need to do is "touch the hem of His garment". Just ask the

woman with the issue of blood. Better yet, ask Jairus. They both got what they needed, even when it looked like all hope was gone, because they realized that He was right there within their reach.

**40: Everyone had been waiting for Jesus, and when He came back,  
a crowd was there to welcome Him.**

**41: Just then the man in charge of the Jewish meeting place came and knelt down in front of Jesus. His name was Jairus, and he begged Jesus to come to his home**

**42: because his twelve-year-old child was dying. She was his only daughter.**

**While Jesus was on His way, people were crowding all around Him.**

**43: In the crowd was a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years. She had spent everything she had on doctors, but none of them could make her well.**

**44: As soon as she came up behind Jesus and barely touched His clothes, her bleeding stopped.**

**45: "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. While everyone was denying it, Peter said, "Master, people are crowding all around and pushing you from every side."**

**46: But Jesus answered, "Someone touched me, because I felt power going out from me."**

**47: The woman knew that she could not hide, so she came trembling and knelt down in front of Jesus. She told everyone why she had touched Him and that she had been healed right away.**

**48: Jesus said to the woman, "You are now well because of your faith.**

**May God give you peace!"**

**49: While Jesus was speaking, someone came from Jairus' home and said, "Your daughter has died! Why bother the Teacher anymore?"**

**50: When Jesus heard this, He told Jairus, "Don't worry! Have faith,  
and your daughter will get well."**

**54: Jesus took hold of the girl's hand and said, "Child, get up!"**

**55: She came back to life and got right up. Jesus told them to give her something to eat.**

**56: Her parents were surprised, but Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.**

Father, thank You that no matter how desperate our situations may seem, You are right there within our reach. Help us, Lord, to reach out and touch You as You patiently wait for us to turn to You. You are always on time with the only answers that we need. Help us to believe and not doubt, trusting that all we need to do is trust in You. Jesus' name. Amen.

**Something to think about:**

**"Faith isn't faith until it's all you're holding on to."**

(Unknown)

Be blessed in the Lord!