

THE FAITH THAT CHANGES OUR STORIES

Jesus comes into our lives to change us – our hearts, our destinies, and our stories. One of the best ways to change is to learn from the successes and the failures of others.

“Human beings have an incredible ability to learn from the mistakes of others and an apparent disinclination to do so.”

Will Rogers paraphrased: Some men have to grab onto the electric fence for themselves.

Mark 5.25-34: A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. She had suffered a great deal under many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse. When she had heard about Jesus, she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. For she thought to herself, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my robe?” His disciples said to him, “Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” But he kept on looking around to see who had done it. Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done. And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you whole. Go in peace. Your suffering is over.”

LESSONS ABOUT FAITH WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS STORY

1. Faith is Possible in the _____ of Times.

Mark 5.25-26: A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. She had suffered a great deal under many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse.

Physically: she was anemic, weak and exhausted.

Relationally: she was cut off from everyone she loved.

Emotionally: she was shunned as unclean.

Spiritually: she was unwelcomed in the temple.

In spite of everything, she had faith: If I just touch Jesus, he will make me whole.

She believed God _____ her, God wanted good for her, and God could and would change her story.

Men, when life knocks you down over and over, you have two options.

(1) You can feel sorry for yourself, give up on life, and become angry with God.

(2) You can rise up inside and say in faith, “God loves me, God wants good for me, and God can and will change my story.”

The question is never: What is life going to do with me?

The question is always: What will I do with life?

It’s not what happens **TO** you; it’s what happens you that makes the difference.

And if what happens in you is faith that believes “greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world,” you will .

A woman in our church: I decided that my test would become my testimony.

If the Spirit of God is in you, you possess immense strength and you have every reason to walk in faith, believing you can face and overcome anything life throws at you.

2. THE FAITH THAT CHANGES OUR STORY IS .

What may be the most amazing part of this story is that person was made whole that day.

There will be men who have gone to church all their lives and to Quest for many years, but when their story is over they will be no closer no closer to God, no more like Christ, no more whole, no freer of past hurts and bitterness than when they first started attending.

Why?

Because they were content to be and bump into Jesus.

But they never really touched him – their faith was never truly personal.

Question: What do you need from Jesus right now?

3. FAITH LOOKS .

One reason this woman is such a great model for us is that instead of looking back with bitterness, she looked forward with faith.

We look backwards when we ask “ ?”

We look forward when we ask “What?”

What can I do about my situation? What are my possibilities? What will get me closer to Jesus?

As long as we’re asking “why” we are chained to the past and enslaved to what our story has been.

It’s only when we begin to ask “what” that the chain is broken and we are empowered to change our stories and step into the God has for us.

Whatever you’re facing, ask yourself: What can I do about my problem today?

Do that today – and then let go of it until tomorrow comes.

There are all kinds of things you can do to change your story –
 steps of faith that will take you out of the past and into the future that God has for
 you.

They may be small, and many may be required.

But the faith that changes us asks what we need to do to move forward not why
 something happened in the past.

4. THE FAITH THAT CHANGES OUR STORY LOOKS TO _____.

Mark 5.27,29: When she had heard about Jesus, she came up behind him through
 the crowd and touched his robe. Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could
 feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

We don't have faith in faith – we have faith in Jesus.

Being positive is better than being negative.

You'll be happier and healthier if you're an optimist rather than a pessimist.

But the power of God is not found in positive thinking.

The power of God lives in Jesus.

His heart is full of compassion and he loves you.

He is a physician for the soul and a healer of bodies.

He is a miracle worker and a life changer.

You've tried gutting it up, "willpowering" your way through, being a man and acting
 strong, staying silent and keeping it to yourself, denial and acting like it's not a
 problem, blaming others and asking why, tried positive thinking and whatever the
 latest self-help book has told you to do.

And instead of getting better, you've gotten worse.

Have your heard about Jesus?