

IF I COULD ONLY

BY: BRAD CULLEN – MAY 29, 2003

WHAT WAS HER FAITH? “IF I COULD ONLY...”

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Many people have asked what is the first step to acquiring the kind of faith with which to cast out demons and heal diverse diseases?

The simple answer is getting in the proper frame of mind.

Remember the woman that had a menstrual period (whoops, excuse me, “issue of blood”) for twelve long years?

She had heard about Jesus – particularly the fact that he could heal. She said to herself,

“If I could only get close enough to him to just touch the edge of his clothing... I would be healed.”

Well now, you’ve certainly heard about Jesus. Have you heard the Bible passage that says he is the same today as he was back then? That’s right... Jesus heals today just the same as he healed two thousand years ago. What are you going to do about it?

Let’s go back to the woman and examine her frame of mind. The passage says that she had spent all of her money on several physicians during those twelve years and that they had tried several things. She was not only not any better, but was actually worse!

I’m not at all trying to be cruel here... but if you want to get the kind of faith that moves obstacles out of your way – you better want it badly enough to DO something about it.

You see, as long as we have medical insurance and can go to a doctor... regardless whether what he or she is doing is helping any... we aren’t going to be in the frame of mind this woman was in. Our faith will still be in the ability of some doctor and the fact that we have insurance to pay for our treatment. I cannot tell you how many times I have watched people be willing to try alternatives (including spiritual alternatives) after they found out their insurance wouldn’t cover the treatment... or the physician pronounced the person “terminal.”

Now there’s a wake up call that will get us into a proper frame of mind!

I really want you to notice something here. I am not criticizing the medical profession. I am merely putting into focus a situation for which physicians didn’t have any answers and the person didn’t have any more money to pay for treatment anyway.

Let’s jump ahead for a moment... we all remember the end of the story... she was healed and what did Jesus tell her?

“Relax, your faith has healed you!”

WHAT WAS HER FAITH?

Well let’s go back to the “proper frame of mind” she got into...

“If I could only get close enough to him to just touch the edge of his clothing... I would be healed.”

She could have stayed at home... but she didn’t. She went to where Jesus was.

Now, that precipitates an interesting bit of digression. If we are going to put things in a parallel of, “Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever...” where is Jesus today?

Here is a challenge that some people simply need to take seriously. Where was the place the Bible speaks of in which Jesus could do no miracles? Was it not the place in which the people thought they knew him best? He was astonished by their unbelief... and could do no mighty works there because of it!

Where is the place today in which people think they know him best? How come so little happens there in the way of active faith? Is it possible that, just as in Nazareth, they only think that they know him... but really don't know him at all? Is that a possibility? If that is true... then that is not the place to learn or expend the kind of faith that Jesus said was what healed this woman with the twelve year, long period. Is it?

Do the people in this place not say that they know Jesus and talk about him incessantly ... in many ways so perfectly depict the target of these words: "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of God, you hold the traditions of men."

The faith of this woman – the faith that Jesus said was responsible for her healing was getting into the frame of mind by which she could believe that her healing was possible. Then going to where Jesus was and pushing and shoving everything aside... to touch his clothing. Presto, poof! She was immediately healed.

But just a minute. We have come far away from where we started... The original question was what is the first step to acquiring the faith with which to heal diseases and cast out demons – and for healing. IT IS THE SAME FAITH... it is an action. Pushing, shoving, demanding that what has already been paid for gets delivered. Faith is wanting it so badly that you don't take no for an answer. Remember, the Giver wants us to have it even more than we do. Angels applaud and sing when we agree with our perfect Dad... and reach for what is rightfully ours. Amen? AMEN! Oh yes, where is Jesus Christ today? In you. The pushing and shoving we must do is simply to get rid of the thoughts that contradict that truth. Jesus Christ, baptize me afresh with the Spirit of the Living God. Jesus Christ, come in NOW and leave no doubt in my mind where you are. You are the Healer... You are the One who baptizes.

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