

Incurable Disease at His Feet

Nathan Wicker / General

At His Feet

// INTRO

› Turn to Mark 5:25 & Leviticus 15:25.

Last week we looked into a story of a father who was in the role of **intercessor** and he fell at the feet of Jesus and pleaded for a miracle for his dying daughter.

In the middle of the journey from the sea to Jairus' house, Jesus is pressed by a crowd and suddenly power goes out from him.

Today's Message: Incurable Disease at His Feet

AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION

Mark 5:24–28 **ESV**

And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well."

The Setting

- Jesus has been met by Jairus who is in desperate need of healing for his dying daughter.
- The crowd is pressing in around Jesus, making travel very difficult.
- A woman, is suffering with an incurable disease for 12 years and desperate for a healing.

- She is at the end of herself, this is a last stitch effort to see healing.

The Tension with the Law

Leviticus 15:25–30 **ESV**

“If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, not at the time of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond the time of her impurity, all the days of the discharge she shall continue in uncleanness. As in the days of her impurity, she shall be unclean. Every bed on which she lies, all the days of her discharge, shall be to her as the bed of her impurity. And everything on which she sits shall be unclean, as in the uncleanness of her menstrual impurity. And whoever touches these things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening. But if she is cleansed of her discharge, she shall count for herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean. And on the eighth day she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons and bring them to the priest, to the entrance of the tent of meeting. And the priest shall use one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her before the LORD for her unclean discharge.

- by law; she is in a hard place to live a “normal” life – if she is having an episode, she is unable to associate with those around. She has most likely been living an isolated life for 12 years. Having to choose how to get groceries and water in between her bleeding episodes.
- keep note: based on the law the unclean were to bring two sacrifices; one for the sin, one for the offering.

Suffering

Mark 5:26 **ESV**

and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.

suffering :: πάσχω **paschō**, *pas´-kho*; to undergo an experience;

suffer (death); endure; to be acted upon in a certain way, to experience certain (ill) treatment

This woman has spent all that she has in 12 years, is isolated from society, and has not only remained unhealed, but actually in a worse state.

- it wasn't just one physician - it was many

Sometimes this idea of suffering can cause us to resent God...
“don't you see me?” “can't you stop this?” “why don't you heal me/us/my _____, already?”

What if I told you, God knows your suffering, he has felt your suffering, and your suffering can produce a good thing?

Jesus Suffering

Luke 9:22 ESV

saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

Luke 17:25 ESV

But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

Luke 22:15 ESV

And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

Luke 24:26 ESV

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

Luke 24:46 ESV

and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

CHRIST

The word **christ** means *the anointed one, the messiah (the promised deliverer)*.

The **anointed one** was given over to **suffering**.

The **messiah/deliverer** was given over to **suffering**.

Psalm 145:8 ESV

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

I heard a teaching on this verse this week (Benny Hinn)...

The word **merciful** is the Hebrew word רַחוּם **rachûwm**, *rakh-oom* and the depth of it's meaning in Hebrew is not sympathy towards someone – it is a **desire to take action and take upon oneself the pain that the subject is going through**.

In direct words; **the mercy of God on us led him to submit his son to suffering in our place.**

Hebrews 2:18 ESV

For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Our Suffering

1 Peter 5:9–10 ESV

Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

John 16:33 ESV

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Revelation 2:10 ESV

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 21:3–4 ESV

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

I look forward to the day when there is no more suffering, no more pain, no more sorrow!

Tension in the Law & Prophets

She knows that the Law has deemed her unclean, however she also knows the prophecy of the Messiah...

Mark 5:27–28 ESV

She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.”

Heard the reports - Mark 3:10 “for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him.”

Touch his garments - Malachi 4:2 “But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.”

We see in Isaiah 53:4–5 “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

- we see that the **power** to heal flowed through Jesus

Power

Mark 5:29–30 ESV

And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?”

power δύναμις **dunamis**, *doo´-nam-is; force, miracle, abundance, might* (mentioned 92 times in the NT)

Luke 6:19 ESV

And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

Acts 1:8 ESV

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 4:33 ESV

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 6:8 ESV

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

Mark 13:26 ESV

And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

Jesus is tempted in the Desert

- led by the spirit into the desert to be temped by the devil
- He emerges victoriously and...

Luke 4:14 ESV

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report

about him went out through all the surrounding country.

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Revelation 19:1 ESV

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF THE POWER, HE IS POWER!

WHO TO BLAME?

Let's pause and ask some more questions:

1. How did this woman get her disease?
2. Is her sickness the result of a sin she committed 12 years ago?
3. If sin was really the cause of the disease, would committing another sin by touching others as she pressed through the crowd bring about a healing? (can sin fix sin?)

Romans 6:1 ESV

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

A Blind Man Healed

John 9:1-4 ESV

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

sin ἁμαρτάνω **hamartanō**, *ham-ar-tan; to offend; trespass; to*

swerve; to err in opinion or action; miss the mark

The question here is, “what did this man do to offend God that he was afflicted with this blindness?”

works ἔργον **ěrgōn**, er´-gon; *to work; toil; labor; to be done; to do the gospel work*

The Work of the Gospel

- the man gets healed and goes to get clearance from the pharisees
- the Pharisees then question the legitimacy of Jesus, even going as far as to call Jesus a sinner for healing on the Sabbath
- a back and forth takes place and the previously blind man makes this statement...

John 9:30–33 **ESV**

The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

The blind man quotes OT scripture about the Messiah to the Pharisees, all proving that Jesus is not only, not a sinner, but indeed the Messiah.

Psalms 146:8 **ESV**

the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

Isaiah 29:18 **ESV**

In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.

Isaiah 35:5 **ESV**

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

Isaiah 42:6–7 **ESV**

“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

This blind man was doing the **works of God!**

› What is more sad?

- a diseased & disabled person that is preaching the gospel?
- a perfectly fine person that isn't preaching the gospel?

This question has shifted my perspective - it has taken me from a worldly, physical viewpoint, to a spiritual viewpoint.

The Lord is Strong in Our Weakness

Paul understood that in his weakness, suffering, pain, sorrow - the the Lord is strong.

2 Corinthians 4:7–12 (ESV)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing **power** belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 (ESV)

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my **power** is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults,

hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

SAVED, HEALED, SET FREE

Mark 5:30–34 ESV

And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’ ” And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

- the woman comes forward and shares the **whole truth** - this had to be offensive to the crowd around
 - she comes before Jesus in **reverence** and **fear**
 - Jesus calls her, **Daughter**
 - **Her faith** made her **well**, Jesus sends her off in peace and healed.
- well** σωζω **sōzō**, *sode; to save; deliver or protect; preserve; make whole*

This is the story of a real woman, that had real faith.

I cannot walk away from this story and give you 3 steps to cure your incurable disease - what I can tell you is that I believe if we continue to preach His gospel, we are going to find a deeper, more complete healing that we ever could've imagined!