

# ASTONISHING [YET NORMAL] FAITH

Mark 5:24b-34 A large crowd followed [Jesus] and pressed around him [almost crushing him].

<sup>25</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.

<sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors [but no one could heal her] and [she] had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.

<sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” <sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

<sup>30</sup> At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

<sup>31</sup> “You see the people crowding against you,” [Peter and] his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

<sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her [and seeing that she could not go unnoticed], came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth [of why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed]. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, “[Take heart,] daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.” NIV84

**Why does this interaction stand out?**

**Why didn’t she ask to be healed?**

**We need not feel unworthy to approach Jesus. We can have confidence!**

Ephesians 3:12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. NIV84

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. NIV84

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him. NIV84

**We shouldn’t hold back on praying big in fear of looking foolish.**

John 16:24 [Jesus said,] Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. NIV84

James 4:2-3 You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. NIV84

John 14:12-14 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in

my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup>You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. NIV84

### **We should imitate the faith of the woman who touched Jesus' cloak.**

Mark 5:34 He said to her, “[Take heart,] daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.” NIV84

Luke 8:53-55 They laughed at [Jesus], knowing that she was dead. <sup>54</sup> But he took [**Jairus' daughter**] by the hand and said, “My child, get up!” <sup>55</sup> Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. NIV84

Luke 7:14-15 Then [Jesus] went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it [out of the town of **Nain**] stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” <sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. NIV84

John 11:43-44 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “**Lazarus**, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. NIV84

Mark 4:39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “**Quiet! Be still!**” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. NIV84

John 2:8-9 Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, <sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. NIV84

Our faith should not be in our asking ability or even in our faith. Our faith needs to be in Jesus.

James 5:17-18 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. NIV

The woman who touched Jesus' cloak was a person with doubts and fears, just like us. She was afraid to even talk to Jesus.

But she boldly approached him, touched his cloak, and was healed!