

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Mark 5:28-36

Peace to brothers and sisters, this is Hwa-Chi. It's time to read the Bible again, we will continue to read Mark 5:28-36.

Yesterday we read that Jesus went to the house of Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, to heal his little daughter who was greatly ill and near death. The crowd followed Jesus, eager to witness the unfolding events, and the journey was marked by a throng of people pressing in around Him. Along the way, there was a woman who had been suffering from a 12 years issue of bleeding. She was among the crowd, desiring healing. However she hesitated to openly request healing from Jesus because bleeding was unclean and she should not be among the crowd. She slowly squeezed in from behind and reached out to touch Jesus' clothes.

Verse 28: For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

She was full of faith in Jesus, and she thought: As long as I touch Jesus' clothes, I can be healed. Hebrews Chapter 11 Verse 1: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Desperate for healing, she squeezed to Jesus, and she stretched out her hand of faith and touched Jesus' garments. This touch of faith materialized the healing she hoped for. Although, she hadn't seen the healing yet, her faith provided the assurance, and thus, her hope was through her faith.

Verse 29: Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

Just by reaching out and touching it, the source of her bleeding was immediately dried up. In no time, she felt that her illness was cured. Jesus is the source of healing power. And faith is that channel; once this channel is connected to the source, the

power of healing flows continuously to the woman. She immediately felt that the source of the bleeding was dried up and her illness was cured. This illustrates the healing received by the woman through her faith. Now let's turn our attention to Jesus.

Verse 30: And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"

Healing came to the woman, and the source came from Jesus; Jesus himself felt that power flowed out of Him. Because this woman had touched Jesus from behind, Jesus turned around and asked the people, "Who touched my garment?" Of course, Jesus knew that it was the woman who touched Him, Jesus also knew that she was healed of her illness. But Jesus wanted to help the woman further, so He did it in front of everyone and ask, "Who touched my clothes?"

Verse 31: But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"

Jesus' disciples were completely unaware of what was happening; they had no understanding of the situation. In fact, this incident was also part of Jesus' discipleship to them. Often, things cannot be taken at face value, and the disciples only saw what was apparent. They saw the crowds pressing in on Jesus, bumping into each other, and almost everyone around Jesus seemed to be touching Him. So, they questioned, how can you ask "who is touching me?" Many times, just like the disciples, we also tend to see only the surface of things. The disciples, feeling justified, thought Jesus' question was somewhat unreasonable, not realizing that they were only seeing the superficial aspect and not the truth of the matter.

Verse 32: And He looked around to see her who had done this thing.

Jesus turned around and surveyed the crowd. Of course, He knew it was the woman, but He didn't point it out. He wanted the woman to take the initiative herself. If we read the parallel passage, in Luke 8:46, while Jesus was watching, He said one more sentence: 'Because I know power has gone out of me.' Jesus made it clear to the woman: I know. Here we see that Jesus does not want people to believe in Him secretly or receive grace secretly. Jesus wants people to believe openly and bear witness publicly, which is why baptisms in the church are public. Every person who is saved by public declaration to the world, especially to Satan's kingdom of darkness: This person now belongs to God and no longer subject to the influence of Satan's darkness.

Verse 33: But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

The woman truly knew that she had been cured of her illness, and she also knew that she could no longer hide it. She fell down before Jesus in fear and trembling and tell the truth. On the one hand, the bleeding that she had suffered for 12 years was cured. The disease cost her everything; this disease forced her to be isolated, and this disease made her live in darkness. It was a great joy to be healed now, so of course she was happy.

But what the Bible records here is not joy, but fear and trembling. Because on the other hand, just by such a touch, she connected to the source of Jesus' healing power and experienced powerful healing; the power of Jesus came upon her, allowing her to truly know this powerful One. Of course, Jesus is full of grace, full of mercy, and full of love; Jesus' presence always makes people feel warmth and comfort. Yet Jesus is still the Creator of the universe, and now this woman has encountered His power. She touched the Almighty God, and how could she not be afraid and trembling?

Jairus, seeking healing for his little daughter, also came to Jesus and fell at His feet. Jairus pleaded with Jesus to go with him, and he had not yet seen his daughter healed. And this woman, who was suffering from a flow of blood, had already

experienced the great power, recognizing Jesus as the true God, she fearfully fell at Jesus' feet. This act of prostration is an act of worship, as stated in Romans 14:11 which quotes from Isaiah 45:23, that to Me every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess or praise. When people come into contact with the true God, this is the inevitable reaction and the only reaction. She fell at Jesus' feet with fear and trembling and told Him all about how she was healed.

Verse 34: And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

Daughter, this is such an affectionate address. She used to live in secrecy and darkness, lest people know that she was unclean. Now Jesus lovingly calls her, His daughter, and says your faith has saved you. Her simple act of faith, just reaching out and touching, brought about such a profound transformation. Her issue of bleeding was healed, and Jesus wanted her to publicly acknowledge it, that is, to testify before the people that her illness was healed, that she was now cleansed and no longer needed to be isolated by Jewish society.

Jesus said, go in peace. Sure enough, she was filled with peace, and she could return to Jewish society and she could also return to the synagogue to attend worship openly. Just the mere act of faith that reaches out and touches brings complete healing of her spirit, soul, and body. Jesus added another sentence: Your disease is healed. The Chinese Union version translates the word 'heal', but it's actually not a proper translation. The original Greek word is *Hodges*. The KJV translation is better, it means that you are perfect and sound. Not only will your body be healed, but you will also find peace in your soul and prosperity in your spirit. This is a complete healing that makes your spirit, soul, and body sound. This is really a joyful event. The disciples who followed must have been filled with happiness and excitement, having learned a valuable lesson.

But what about Jairus? If you were Jairus, how would you feel? Could you also learn from this experience? If I were Jairus, I would likely be anxious, as an ant on a hot pan. Yes, it is a joyful thing for the woman with bleeding to be healed. But Lord

Jesus, have you forgotten my little daughter? Saving lives is like putting out fires, can we stop wasting any more time? Let's hurry up and get to my house. Another delay, and it might be too late!

Verse 35: While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

Sure enough, while Jesus was talking to the woman with an issue of bleeding, someone from Jairus' house came and told him: Your daughter is dead, so there is no need to trouble Jesus any more. In fact, this was a lesson Jesus intended for Jairus to learn. This was also the teaching material for Jesus' discipleship as a few months later, the disciples would face a similar situation in John 11 when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Perhaps the disciples did not learn well this time, so Jesus led them to experience it again.

In the incident of Lazarus' resurrection, Lazarus was sick; Martha and Mary sent someone to tell Jesus, "The one you love is sick." They wanted Jesus to come back quickly so that He could heal Lazarus. John Gospel Chapter 11 Verses 5 and 6 record, "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was." It seemed that the two sisters were very anxious, but Jesus deliberately stayed for two extra days. The Bible also says that Jesus loved Martha and Mary very much. Because of His love for them, Jesus deliberately stayed two days longer. It took four days to get to their house, and then Lazarus was dead and buried. But Jesus had a greater salvation in mind – the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead, and Jesus wanted to strengthen their faith to make them understand that Jesus is the resurrection.

Therefore, on the way to Jairus' house, perhaps God specially arranged for this woman to interrupt and delay their journey. Jesus also specifically wanted this woman to publicly admit that she was healed and help her not only heal physically but also fill peace in her soul, and joy in her heart, and Jesus wanted her to be completely healed. These things may have seemed like a waste of time to Jairus,

but they were exactly the lessons Jairus needed to learn. When people told him that his little daughter was dead, Jesus spoke before Jairus could reply.

Verse 36: As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe.”

Jesus knew that Jairus would be sad, even angry, when he heard that his younger daughter had died. Therefore, when Jesus heard this, he immediately said to Jairus: Don't be afraid, just believe! Dear brothers and sisters, 'Don't be afraid, just believe', were frequently spoken by Jesus to His disciples and have been a comforting reassurance for countless believers facing trials. In the midst of difficulties, uncertainties about the future, Jesus often says to us, “Don't be afraid; just believe!” Let's engrave these six words in our hearts: “Don't be afraid; just believe.”

The environment may be challenging, and the future may seem hopeless, but Jesus is still always whispering in our ears: Don't be afraid, just believe! Because Jesus is the Lord of our environment, as long as Jesus is with us, we have nothing to fear. And faith is the channel through which we draw on the power of Jesus; through faith, we can access the riches of heaven, we can gain heavenly power, and we can overcome all difficulties. Dear brothers and sisters, if you have forgotten everything else in today's scripture, please just remember these six words: “Don't be afraid, just believe.”

Let us pray: Lord, thank You! As we follow You, we may encounter many situations that we did not expect, and we may also experience difficulties that we are unable to overcome. Yet thank You that You consistently speak to us: Don't be afraid, just believe! Because You are with us, You always protect us. Help us to lift our eyes to the mountains, because our help comes from Jehovah, the Maker of heaven and earth. You are not only a powerful Creator, but you also take care of our every need. Dear Lord, especially when our faith is weak, remind us through our surroundings and the encouragements of our brothers and sisters that You are the author and perfecter of our faith. Strengthen our faith and help us walk in the path of peace. Pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ.