

Luke 8:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.

Analysis

Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd. The woman's approach "behind him" (opisthe, ὀπισθε) reveals her attempt at secrecy—avoiding public attention due to shame over her unclean condition. The phrase "touched the border of his garment" (hēpsato tou kraspedou tou himatiou autou, ἥψατο τοῦ κρασπέδου τοῦ ἱματίου αὐτοῦ) specifies she touched the kraspedon (κράσπεδον)—the tassels or fringes that faithful Jews wore on garment corners in obedience to Numbers 15:38-39 and Deuteronomy 22:12. These tassels reminded wearers to keep God's commandments.

Her faith focused on even the least contact with Jesus—not His hand, not His body, but merely the fringe of His clothing. Yet she believed this minimal touch would suffice for healing. This demonstrates extraordinary faith—confidence that Jesus' power so permeated His being that contact with His garment edges would release healing. The adverb "immediately" (parachrēma, παραχρῆμα) indicates instantaneous effect. The verb "stanchèd" (estē, ἔστη, from histēmi, "to stand, stop") means the hemorrhage ceased, stopped flowing, completely ended.

The contrast between her secret touch and immediate healing creates dramatic tension. She hoped to receive blessing anonymously and slip away unnoticed. But Jesus will not allow her healing to remain secret (vv. 45-48)—He will publicly affirm her faith, restore her dignity, and grant peace. This pattern recurs

throughout Scripture: God meets secret faith with public honor, rewards hidden devotion with open blessing.

Historical Context

Jewish men wore prayer shawls (tallit) with four tassels (tzitzit) attached to corners, fulfilling the Torah command in Numbers 15:38-39: "Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments...that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD." These fringes served as visual reminders of covenant obligation and identity as God's people. Jesus, as an observant Jew, would have worn such tassels.

The woman's belief that touching these fringes would heal her may reflect Jewish understanding of God's power working through His covenant people. Alternatively, she may have connected the tassels' purpose (remembering God's commands) with God's power to heal. Her faith wasn't superstitious—she trusted not in the fabric but in Jesus' divine authority represented even in His clothing.

Her action violated Levitical purity laws. In her unclean state, touching anyone—especially a rabbi—transmitted impurity. Yet rather than Jesus becoming unclean, His purity and power overcame her impurity and disease. This reversal previews the gospel's transformative power: contact with Christ doesn't defile Him but cleanses us. His holiness is greater than our sin, His power stronger than our weakness.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does the woman's faith in touching merely Jesus' garment fringe teach about confidence in Christ's complete sufficiency?

2. How does the immediate healing upon contact demonstrate the reality and availability of divine power to those who reach out in faith?
3. What does the reversal of ritual impurity (she doesn't defile Jesus; He heals her) reveal about the gospel's transformative power?

Interlinear Text

προσελθοῦσα	ὀπισθεν	ἥψατο	τοῦ	κρασπέδου	τοῦ		
Came	behind	him and touched	G3588	the border	G3588		
G4334	G3693	G680		G2899			
ἱματίου	αὐτῆς	καὶ	παραχρῆμα	ἔστη	ἡ	ρύσις	τοῦ
garment	her	and	immediately	stanchied	G3588	issue	G3588
G2440	G846	G2532	G3916	G2476		G4511	
αἵματος	αὐτῆς						
of blood	her						
G129	G846						

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 22:12 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt make thee fringes upon the four quarters of thy vesture, wherewith thou coverest thyself.

Acts 19:12 (Parallel theme): So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Malachi 4:2 (Parallel theme): But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.