

Luke 8:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.

Analysis

And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. The phrase "when the woman saw that she was not hid" (idouσα δε ἡ γυνὴ ὅτι οὐκ ἔλαθεν) reveals her failed hope for anonymous healing. The verb *lanthanō* (λανθάνω, "to escape notice, be hidden") indicates she realized concealment was impossible. Her response—"came trembling" (tremouσα ἦλθεν, τρέμouσα ἦλθεν)—manifests fear, possibly from violating purity laws by touching Jesus in her unclean state, or from being exposed before the crowd.

"Falling down before him" (prosepesousa autō, προσπεσοῦσα αὐτῷ) demonstrates worship, reverence, and submission. The same posture Jairus took (v. 41), it expresses recognition of Jesus' authority and her desperate need. She "declared unto him before all the people" (apēngeilen enōpion pantos tou laou, ἀπήγγειλεν ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ λαοῦ) her entire story—"for what cause she had touched him" (her chronic condition, her desperate faith) and "how she was healed immediately" (hōs iathē parachrēma, ὡς ἰάθη παραχρῆμα)—the instantaneous, complete cure.

Her public testimony accomplished what Jesus intended: removed her shame, validated her faith, restored her covenant standing, and demonstrated God's compassion for marginalized people. What she feared—exposure—became her

liberation. Jesus transformed her secret shame into public honor, her hidden suffering into declared healing, her isolation into community restoration. This pattern characterizes gospel transformation: what we hide in shame, Christ redeems through public declaration of His grace.

Historical Context

For a woman to speak publicly before a mixed crowd was culturally unusual in first-century Judaism. Women rarely addressed public assemblies, especially on personal, shameful matters like chronic bleeding. Her willingness to declare her story "before all the people" demonstrates the desperation that drove her to Jesus and the freedom His healing brought. She had nothing left to lose—already socially dead from twelve years of isolation, Jesus' public affirmation could only improve her standing.

Her testimony served multiple purposes in early Christian understanding. First, it publicly certified the miracle, establishing witnesses for Luke's careful historical documentation (Luke 1:1-4). Second, it removed any question about her continued ritual uncleanness—the healing was complete and immediate, certified before the community. Third, it demonstrated that Jesus' contact with the unclean didn't defile Him but brought purification and restoration—a preview of the gospel's power to cleanse sinners who touch Christ in faith.

The detail "how she was healed immediately" (parachrēma, παραχρῆμα) emphasizes the instantaneous nature of the cure, ruling out natural remission or gradual improvement. Luke, the physician, carefully documents the miracle's medical impossibility, strengthening the historical case for Jesus' divine power and the reliability of eyewitness testimony in Gospel accounts.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus transform the woman's feared exposure into liberation and public honor?
2. What does her willingness to declare her story 'before all the people' teach about the relationship between shame and gospel freedom?
3. How does this public testimony serve both the woman's complete restoration and the broader purpose of establishing credible witness to Christ's power?

Interlinear Text

ἰδοῦσα	δὲ	ἡ	γυνή	ὅτι	οὐκ	ἔλαθεν	τρέμουσα
saw	And	G3588	when the woman	that	not	hid	trembling
G1492	G1161		G1135	G3754	G3756	G2990	G5141
ἦλθεν	καὶ	προσπεσοῦσα	αὐτῷ,	δι'	ἦν	αἰτίαν	
she came	and	falling down before	him	for	what	cause	
G2064	G2532	G4363	G846	G1223	G3739	G156	
ἥψατο	αὐτῷ,	ἀπήγγειλεν	αὐτῷ,	ἐνώπιον	παντὸς	τοῦ	
she had touched	him	she declared	him	before	all		G3588
G680	G846	G518	G846	G1799	G3956		
λαοῦ	καὶ	ὥς	ἰάθη	παραχρῆμα			
the people	and	how	she was healed	immediately			
G2992	G2532	G5613	G2390	G3916			

Additional Cross-References

Mark 5:33 (Parallel theme): But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

Hebrews 12:28 (Parallel theme): Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Psalms 2:11 (Parallel theme): Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

1 Corinthians 2:3 (Parallel theme): And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

2 Corinthians 7:15 (Parallel theme): And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.

Acts 16:29 (Parallel theme): Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

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