

Mark 5:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

Analysis

And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. Mark emphasizes the healing's immediacy and totality. 'Straightway' (εὐθὺς, euthys)—Mark's characteristic word appearing over 40 times—stresses instant results. 'The fountain of her blood was dried up' (ἐξηράνθη ἡ πηγὴ τοῦ αἵματος αὐτῆς, exērānthē hē pēgē tou haimatos autēs) uses vivid imagery: the source/spring of bleeding stopped completely. The verb ξηραίνω (xērainō) means to make thoroughly dry—not temporary cessation but permanent cure.

'She felt in her body' (ἔγνω τῷ σώματι, egnō tō sōmati) indicates internal awareness—she didn't need external confirmation; she knew immediately in her physical being. 'Healed of that plague' (ἰαται ἀπὸ τῆς μάστιγος, iatai apo tēs mastigos) describes cure from the affliction that plagued her twelve years. The word 'plague' (μάστιξ, mastix) literally means 'whip' or 'scourge,' depicting her condition as constant torment. Christ's healing brought instant, complete, experientially verifiable deliverance. This foreshadows spiritual salvation's nature: instantaneous justification (declared righteous), experientially verifiable (assurance of salvation), and permanent (eternal security). Reformed theology emphasizes that salvation, like this healing, is Christ's work alone, received through faith, producing immediate and lasting transformation.

Historical Context

Instantaneous healings were not characteristic of ancient medicine, which relied on gradual treatment over time. This immediate cure authenticated Jesus' divine power—only God could instantly reverse twelve years of chronic illness. The woman's internal awareness of healing reflects ancient understanding that people knew their bodies intimately without modern diagnostic technology. Her confidence that healing occurred, before external verification, demonstrates experiential knowledge. In Jewish understanding, the cessation of bleeding would require seven days to confirm before ritual cleansing could begin (Leviticus 15:28), meaning complete restoration to normal life required patience despite immediate physical healing. Yet the spiritual restoration—her faith and Christ's acceptance—occurred instantly. Early church interpretation saw this as paradigm for conversion: the instant soul-cleansing occurs when faith touches Christ, though full restoration to community and visible fruit-bearing takes time to manifest fully.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the immediate and complete nature of this woman's healing illustrate the instantaneous and permanent character of justification when sinners come to faith in Christ?
2. What role does 'feeling in your body'—experiential assurance—play in confirming spiritual healing and salvation?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εὐθὲως ἐξηράνθη ἡ πηγὴ τοῦ αἷματος αὐτῆς
And straightway was dried up the fountain blood of her
G2532 G2112 G3583 G3588 G4077 G3588 G129 G846

καὶ ἔγνω τῷ σώματι ὅτι ἤταί ἀπὸ τῆς μάστιγος
And she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague
G2532 G1097 G3588 G4983 G3754 G2390 G575 G3588 G3148

Additional Cross-References

Mark 5:34 (Parallel theme): And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Psalms 30:2 (Parallel theme): O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

Psalms 103:3 (Parallel theme): Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Mark 3:10 (Parallel theme): For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.

Psalms 107:20 (Parallel theme): He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Psalms 147:3 (Parallel theme): He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Exodus 15:26 (Parallel theme): And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

Luke 7:21 (Parallel theme): And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.

1 Kings 8:37 (Parallel theme): If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpiller; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be;

Leviticus 20:18 (Blood): And if a man shall lie with a woman having her sickness, and shall uncover her nakedness; he hath discovered her fountain, and she hath uncovered the fountain of her blood: and both of them shall be cut off from among their people.

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