

Matthew 9:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:

Analysis

The woman 'which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years' suffered both physical pain and ceremonial uncleanness (Leviticus 15:25-27), making her a social and religious outcast. Her approach from behind reflects shame and faith —'If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole' (v. 21). Touching Jesus should have defiled Him, but instead, her touch in faith brought healing. Her action demonstrates bold faith overcoming shame.

Historical Context

Twelve years of chronic bleeding meant constant ritual impurity—unable to worship at the temple, participate in community, or marry. She had spent all her money on physicians unsuccessfully (Mark 5:26). Touching Jesus or His garment was her last desperate hope.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What desperation or shame keeps you from reaching out to Jesus?
2. How does this woman's persistent faith despite obstacles encourage you?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	ἰδοῦ,	γυνή	αἱμορροοῦσα	δώδεκα	ἔτη
And	behold	a woman	which was diseased with an issue of blood	twelve	years
G2532	G2400	G1135	G131	G1427	G2094
προσελθοῦσα	ὀπισθεν	ἥψατο	τοῦ	κρασπέδου	τοῦ
came	behind	him and touched	G3588	the hem	G3588
G4334	G3693	G680		G2899	
ἱματίου	αὐτοῦ·				
garment	of his				
G2440	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 14:36 (Parallel theme): And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Mark 6:56 (Parallel theme): And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

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

Mark 8:22 (Parallel theme): And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

Matthew 23:5 (Parallel theme): But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

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.

Acts 5:15 (Parallel theme): Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org