

Series	Seen (Gospel of Mark)
Bible	Mark 5:25-34
Title/Topic	The Faith to Draw Near; Jesus Sees My Disappointment and Shame
Overview	Many people may feel like God has absolutely no interest in them because of some shortcomings they have. Maybe they're not as smart or talented. Maybe they have physical limitations. Maybe because of these things, they have even been told by others that God thinks less of them. The story of the woman in Mark 5:25-34 shows us something very different.
Scripture Breakdown	<p>The Main Point: While others may push you aside, God welcomes you.</p> <p>CONTEXT: The story of this woman is contained within the greater story of Jesus going to heal Jairus's daughter. In many ways, this woman was the opposite of Jairus. Jairus was a synagogue ruler, which meant that he was likely held in high esteem. The woman would have been an outcast or at least "less than" simply because she was a woman. Add to this that she had an infirmity (bleeding) that made her ceremonially unclean according to the Jewish law at that time. She was the outcast of the outcasts. She had every reason to give up, but her faith in what Jesus could do led her to do the culturally unthinkable and approach Jesus.</p> <p>WHAT WE LEARN FROM THIS WOMAN'S FAITH:</p> <p>1) Faith in the Lord refuses to give up when everything and everyone around us says we should.</p> <p>This woman had every reason to say to herself, "Well, I guess it's no use trying anymore." She had every reason to believe that her lot in life was sealed and that she would be an outcast until the day that she died—which she could have hoped would be very soon.</p> <p>Because of her infirmity, she didn't measure up to what the culture around her said was the standard. And there was nothing she could do to change her situation.</p> <p>Many people today feel the same way, even when it comes to the things of God. They see their limitations and shortcomings as reasons why they should give up—even on the things of God. Perhaps they have had people tell them that God thinks less of them because of their situation. Faith in the Lord refuses to listen to these lies. Faith remembers what the truth is no matter what.</p> <p>2) Faith in the Lord believes that the same God who heals others is able to bring healing to us.</p>

	<p>This text tells us that there was a specific moment when this woman’s faith was ignited to the point of trying again. After she had spent all her money on doctors trying in vain to figure out how to heal her, “she had heard the reports about Jesus.”</p> <p>In her brokenness, she could have easily said something berating like, “that’s really nice <i>for them.</i>” In other words, she could have grumbled that they received God’s healing while she still suffered. Instead, she believed that the same thing could be done for her, and she acted on this faith. She even said to herself, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” She didn’t wait for Jesus to come to her. Instead, she pursued him herself. The text tells us later that Jesus commended her for such faith.</p> <p>Many people may act in the way that this woman could have acted. Maybe some see the hand of God in other people’s lives but have trouble believing that God could do the same thing for them in his timing if they would act on their faith as this woman did. Some may be waiting <i>for Jesus to come to them</i> while Jesus is actually waiting <i>for them to come to Him.</i></p> <p>3) Faith in the Lord runs after the Lord regardless of what others might think or say.</p> <p>Since this woman was ceremonially unclean, running into a crowd to get to Jesus was extremely risky. Others who likely bumped into her as she was trying to get to Jesus would have had some choice thoughts come into their minds, if not also out of their mouths.</p> <p>She didn’t care. She was going after Jesus. That was her main goal.</p> <p>Many people, especially those who may have fallen away from church or the Lord for a long time or who have never been in fellowship with the Lord in the first place, may hinder themselves from coming to Jesus simply because they’re worried about the opinions of others. Faith in the Lord, as exemplified by this woman in this story, doesn’t bow to these kinds of hindrances.</p>
Gospel	Jesus sees you, even with your infirmities, imperfections, and hindrances. Will you embrace faith and pursue him the way this woman did?
Next Steps	What lies do you believe about why God wouldn’t receive you? Where do these stem from? What do you need to do to silence them?

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can email me at jasonp@newlifechicago.org.