

The woman with an issue of blood.

See service sheet online at www.knbc.org

Welcome

Opening Scripture

Hymn: MP 1227 The splendor of the King

Reading: Isaiah 26:1-14

Prayer: Adoration and Praise

Mothering Sunday

Notices pray CT greetings, Issy reading, Missionary Sec.

Main reading: Mark 5:21-43 (main text 24-34)

Hymn MP 755 / 1126 When I survey the wondrous cross

Sermon: "Reach out to Jesus" and be freed from your infirmity

Hymn: MP 1209 My heart is filled with thankfulness

Close -----

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.

The audio file is [21_03_14.mp3](#).



Welcome and pray

- Angela was a lady who gave up work to care for her friend, a young woman Carrie who had advanced cancer, she finally comes to accept the reality - it will only be a matter of weeks before she will die. Yes die.
- Once the diagnosis for cancer comes through as positive – there are a few options. Medication, Radiation, Chemo, Surgery. With advanced or advancing cancer the comes a time when all options are exhausted.

What now? "We are very sorry, there is nothing more we can do"

- Your business is in debt, your credit rating is terrible, the banks are saying "no more", up to your limits on all your cards – you won't survive.
- So also sometimes in relationships - too much has happened, too much has been said, there is no will there to persevere - and it is over.
- You've lost something, you've looked everywhere, asked everyone, retraced every step but after considerable time & effort – nothing.

Again and again we find in life that options are exhausted, you have reached the end of the road. At last you have to face up to the truth - there is nothing you - or anyone else can do. Though tempted to think otherwise in our technically advanced world, in real life, your reach – "a hard stop".

This woman we are looking at was a sufferer, - and there's no hope.

²⁵ **A woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.** ²⁶ **She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had.** This woman is in a miserable state, a sick woman with an incurable disease. And now she is bankrupt.

Let us travel though - from hurting, to hoping, to healing. x2

We start with the miserableness of her sickness – she is hurting

We don't know what sort of bleeding it was, it could be menstruation that continued without ceasing, whatever it was it had been going on for 12 long years, it must have felt like a prison sentence.

She had been offered hope, - at a price, - the doctors had given her hope as long as she kept paying, when the money had gone, so had they, and so had hope. Is you hope linked to your money?

Do you think there is hope as long as you have money? No money no hope?

She had spent all she had and she's now on her own. Luke records that **no-one could heal her**, and Luke is a doctor. The doctors had promised much

but the truth is doctors don't heal, - there is nothing any doctor can do, it is the Lord who heals, it is his common kindness that allows healing.

After all that - **yet instead of getting better - she grew worse.** x2

It's a miserable sickness – *with no end in sight* - does your life feel like that?

For her there is extra misery - as a Jew living at that time her malady, with her flow of blood, made her ceremonially unclean. The Law through Moses said **“When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge,..”** Le 15:25

Being ceremonially unclean meant she could not come to the temple or join in with others at worship. She was unclean - like a leper. ... and anyone whom she touched would also become unclean. People would avoid her when they found out, and probably by now all knew and would keep well away. Lest they too become unclean.

What she has is like the miserableness of sin

This woman, a woman with no name, is any woman, or any man, anybody, - and everybody. She is in a miserable state - gripped by an incurable disease.

The Bible says we are all born with an incurable disease. That is sin. It is invisible and lodged deep within, but the consequences are that if it is not dealt with it will surely bring all to the grave and to judgment. Let's be clear about that. That is why everyone dies. The other side, judgment awaits.

As she lost blood so sin saps the life out of a person. Like this woman it is a disease that no man can cure. It is a disease that separates people (a glimpse of this with covid). As this woman was alienated from others, so sin - the sin of self, breaks up relationships and like an unchecked cancer just gets worse.

As this woman had become poor in her efforts so sin makes us poor. Money can buy no cure for sin either. It seemed all she had was a long hard road until the inevitable end. Does that not describe our lives here on earth?

That had left her without hope - - But then x2 - something she never expected happened - it says **she heard about Jesus** x2 to hear of Jesus.

- When I went travelling in the USA those years ago the last thing I was expecting was that two people would stop me on a street corner and tell

me about Jesus. My first reaction was “I don't need to hear his, I don't need to know” But I did need to hear, I did need to know.

There is hope - hoping

She had heard of Jesus. What had she heard? What did she know? What do you know about Him? If I handed out paper - how much could you write?

Chris winters would write reams he is a minister! others here as well, what about you? you who have been here every Sunday? Or you the visitor?

- Man at Cadbury College knew I was working on a sermon, Dave said, on Thursday he asked how it was going - and on Monday he asked how it went. I joked last week I would give him a walk on part. He now has it.

If I gave him a piece of paper and asked him to write down what he knows of Jesus how much would there be? He has spent a lifetime in education, I wonder though, just how much does he know about who Jesus Christ is? >>

What had this lady heard? They were expecting the messiah to come, and now someone was here going around speaking about God and His coming kingdom. This Jesus spoke with authority, he said you can believe it because I will heal people, and he had, many people - and she reasoned he could heal her. It's an uncomplicated deduction, not a wild unreasonable hope - but a simple hope - based on clear evidence.

She didn't have to know everything, you don't need to know everything.

She knew two things – She knew her need - and she knew his power. And she had made up her mind, - she was going to do something about it!

Gospel

She knew her need; do you know your need? Some come to church and want to see if Christ can help them with their sickness, or their depression, or loneliness, or sadness or that empty heart.

All these are symptoms – symptoms of the greater sickness, a sickness in the heart. My sin, my refusal to give God his right place, my sin is such an offence, an affront to the Holy God who made me. Sin not only separates people - much more importantly it keeps me away from God the source of true life and goodness.

But God in his love sent his Son into this world, **so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.** – and what does the sign

outside the Chapel say? **Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners** that is it.

He came to bring help and hope – and what did sinful men do? Lay hands on him and treat him cruelly, dreadfully, shamefully. Nailed to the cross **it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer** – that he should bear away my sin and make me whole. By His power, By His grace alone.

Stoning in OT – Cross with nails driven in and the spear splattering soldier.

The shedding of his blood can make the worst sinner clean. He has done everything at great cost to himself – so that it is free to people like you and me. My response, your response is acknowledge the truth of your desperate state – and reach out to Christ, come to Him in simple faith - and trust Him. This woman did, “I know who he is, I know what he can do, Yes He can heal me, Yes he can, He can make me clean” *And he can do the same for you.*

And now Jesus was coming her way

Now was her chance, she must seize the moment, “If I don’t do something now - it will be too late”.

But there were obstacles, **a large crowd**. She was surrounded by people who **pressed** around him. It was difficult, they obstructed her reaching the only One she now believed could, and would, help.

Are you surrounded by those who hinder you from finding Christ? Is there someone making it difficult for you to come to Jesus? Are you surrounded by those who bring false hopes, maybe false religions, false promises? Have you for too long looked to them for the cure for your ills?

There were so many she could reach out to - but it had to be this One.

✚ **However weak she was in body – she was strong in resolve**

She had decided in her mind, as we hear her thoughts **"If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."**x2 - **when she heard about Jesus** she did something.

²⁷ **she came up behind him in the crowd** was that the only way in this rushed mass of humanity she could approach him? Or was it her shyness, she didn't want him to see her, maybe she didn't want to bother him, slow him down on his mercy mission to Jairus' daughter.

Yet she was determined to receive mercy – If I just **"If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."** Jesus said **“ask and you will receive”**

Luke observed that she touched the edge of his cloak. Jews, as a sign of their desire to obey God had coats with tassels – Nu 15 **‘Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them.**

She is healed - healing

The moment this woman reached out through the crowd to Him, ²⁹ **Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.** The bleeding has gone, she is better - and she knows it!

■ *I remember the moment I was forgiven by Jesus, I knew something had happened something had gone – and something – someone had come.*

³⁰ **At once Jesus realised that power had gone out from him.**

Jesus is a person not a machine, it is not touch here or press here and the cup drops down. Some people treat God like this, a prod or push or cry and then you get what you want, what you came for. This is crass superstition. This is how the pagans approach their gods. God is not a metaphysical God who responds like some algorithm.

His healing **power**, his '**virtue**' (AV) did not flow from Him automatically at a touch, but was under His control, Jesus is responding to her faith which He felt to be present. He does the same with you and I – so *come believing* **He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"** ³¹ **"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, " (are you guessing it's Peter, you are right, Luke records it) and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"** ³² **But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.**

Why did the One who knows everything do this? Jesus knows what he wants this woman to do..... and summons the woman into the open.

³³ **Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear,**

He wants to restore her respect in the eyes of others

He wants to make it clear that she came in faith, not some base superstition.

He wants to make it personal, Jesus can heal of the body from behind - Salvation comes only when face to face with Jesus

He wants her to confesses publically. For herself - and for others.

That those in the crowd who will not be able to enter the house ahead, will hear from her confession the nature of true faith.

This woman **told him the whole truth**. They can hear of the healing of this secret hidden illness and how Christ is willing to do the same for anyone.

✚ But it is also for her – her public confession seals her eternal healing

■ Go to a wedding and there is in the middle the “I will”. Sometimes it is almost a shout, sometimes it is a whisper, “I will” but that is enough. x2

There have been some here, a number, who say they have faith, but they are silent. I don’t believe they have true faith. for you do not hear of it – not publically. Some would say they **believe in their heart that Jesus is the Son of God and that he was raised him from the dead**, and other truths. - But what is missing? Ro 10:8-9 says: **if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, - you will be saved.**”

To seal faith – to be saved - there has to be a public profession. (Such as at baptism.) is there someone here still to do that? Never done so? then do so, let us hear it – we can hear now, today, come and see me during the Hymn.

✚ Then you will be sure you are declared not guilty in the courtroom of heaven. You will be sure that those filthy rags have been replaced with clean clothes, and you will know your name is written in the book of life.

Now Please note this is one episode inserted into another

Do not miss the intended connection – and the contrast - here between this woman - and Jairus with his dead daughter.

Jesus’s heart is for both this poor woman with no name, and Jairus the synagogue ruler. He is prominent, a man, well known, respected and probably reasonably well off financially. Here is a woman and poor. One event is happening very publically the other one in private. And yet it’s the private one in the crowds, - while the well-known one is in private behind closed doors. Jairus is religiously ‘clean’, the woman ‘unclean’. He is confident, she is shy. - Yet there is a clear message for both.

Jairus the synagogue ruler, an example of confident faith before others, hears Jesus say to the woman: **"Daughter, your faith has healed you.** Jesus commends her faith. But **Jesus said** Lu 8:50 to Jairus about his dead daughter **"Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."** It's the same word.

Daughter, your faith has healed you. healed or made well or made **whole** AV.

The Greek word is the usual word for 'saved' in the spiritual sense. The AV translates it ‘**save**’ 93 times of the 110 times from a contraction from saos, "**safe**". While Jesus commends her **faith** for pressing through in **faith** it is his power and his will to cure the woman. The Bible says actually he drew her to himself by his Spirit, that she might obtain a cure.

Now she can **Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.**”

Even if the physical cure took place by touching the garment, she now receives wholeness and peace with God - given to her freely by Jesus Christ.

If Jairus is to learn the lesson of faith, then this woman can learn that her new faith is no less profound than life from the dead – as is about to happen with this young girl. *Let me be clear - those who come to Christ find life!*

Jesus Christ is the life giver, to have him is to have life. Not to have Christ, despite how alive you felt yourself to be, is to remain dead. Dead to God and dead one day in every sense – eternally.

As I finish let me ask the question: “how about you? Have you? Will you?”

1. This woman saw her chance and seized the moment, she would not let it go. Jesus would soon be out of reach, soon it would be too late, the chance gone. Will you now seize the chance before it is gone! Don’t exit the same.
2. She knew enough, - some here know enough, you don’t need more information. However young or old you are you need a cure, a change of heart, you need that now, x2 - reach out to Jesus now. x2
3. For some, maybe you, there are others in the way, you have to, like this woman in determined faith pushed through the obstacles to Christ, will you? Jesus calls you **“Come to me”** he says “are you burdened? Are you weary, come to me” he beckons you to come.

There is the invitation - It is for you to act. “Trust me” he says “trust me”

So trust Him, entrust your life to Him, many have gone before you. This woman had faith and acted on it, though weak she boldly ventured through the crowd, reached out and was saved. She made sure - how about you?

Have you heard those words **“Go in peace and be freed from your suffering”**.

Go in peace, go free, go healed, go changed. Some will go from here the same unchanged, not healed but for her she went in peace. Peace in her body, peace in her mind, peace in her heart, peace with her God her maker. Not peace for a moment or peace for a day but peace for eternity. END