

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

December 23, 2007

A healing faith

by Eric Hamilton

And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.

She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?"

And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'"

And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth.

And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease" (Mark 5:25-34 ESV).

This is a fascinating story that raises many questions in my mind. What does it mean that Jesus perceived power going out of him? Why did he ask who touched him when he knows all things? To these questions I have no good answers, but they are just things to think about. What we will focus on in this story is the aspect of the faith of this woman, and what her faith can teach us about our own faith.

This woman had spent with her discharge of blood. For twelve years she had to deal with this problem, and in that time she went to many doctors who were eager to take her money, but had no cure.

She had come to hear about Jesus, his ability to heal people, and she had come to believe that if she just touched his garment she would be healed. This is the first aspect of faith to recognize. One cannot have faith without hearing about Jesus (Romans 10:17).

As soon as the woman touched Jesus' garment, she was healed. So what was the connection between touching Jesus' garment and this woman's healing? Jesus said that her faith had healed her. So how did her faith heal her?

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." On the surface, this explanation for faith could be understood as a simple mental action of acceptance of things that you cannot see. Is that the kind of faith that the Hebrews writer is trying to describe?

This woman could have heard about Jesus, and believed that he had the power to heal her, but if she did not act on that belief, would she have been healed? Every story about Jesus' healings describes people asking for his help, coming to him like this woman, making some sort of **action** that showed they believed that Jesus could heal them. In each case they did something. What is faith without action, but dead (James 2:17)? True faith acts on its convictions that Jesus can save. If you do not act, how will you be healed?