

Face to Face

with

Women Jesus Touched

First Day

Her Story

“But all of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transformed in ever-increasing splendor into His own image, and this is the work of the Lord who is the Spirit.” (II Corinthians 3:18 PHILLIPS)

This week our study will encompass the stories of three separate women who came in contact with Jesus and whose lives were forever changed by His touch. As we consider the lives of each of these women, we are reminded of how very different each of us are; and yet we too have that common bond of being touched by the love of Christ.

We will begin by looking at what Scripture tells us about each of these three women. *This is their story.*

Read the verses listed below and in a few sentences summarize the events described there:

The Woman Caught in Adultery

John 8:1-11

What was this woman's *sorrow*? _____

What was her *joy*? _____

What did she *learn*? _____

The Syrophenician Woman

Mark 7:24-30

What was this woman's *sorrow*? _____

What was her *joy*? _____

What did she *learn*? _____

The Woman with the Issue of Blood

Mark 5:25-34 _____

What was this woman's *sorrow*? _____

What was her *joy*? _____

What did she *learn*? _____

- As you consider the stories of these three women, what do *you* learn about the touch of Jesus?

Second Day

Her Manner

Who is She?

“...Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.” (II Peter 1:5-7)

We are not told the name of any of the women in our study this week.

Today we will be looking at the *character* of the women we are studying. Reread the **John 8** account of the Woman Caught in Adultery and use the following words to describe her:

- *Her strength*

- *Her weakness*

What lessons do you learn from her? _____

Through your study of her character, what new things have you learned about our Lord's character? _____

Reread the **Mark 7** account of the Syrophenician Woman and use the following words to describe her:

- *Her strength*

- *Her weakness*

- *Her perseverance*

Is there anything about this woman that you can relate to? _____

What lessons do you learn from her? _____

Through your study of her character, what new things have you learned about our Lord's character? _____

Reread the **Mark 5** account of the Woman with the Issue of Blood and use the following words to describe her:

- *Her strength*

- *Her weakness*

- o *Her faith*

Is there anything about this woman that you can relate to? _____

What lessons do you learn from her? _____

Through your study of her character, what new things have you learned about our Lord's character? _____

Third Day

Her Hope

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.” (Luke 1:45 NASB)

Today we will focus in on the *hope* of the Woman with the Issue of Blood. From what you have studied about her this week:

What was her *need*? _____

What was her *hope*? _____

What was her *promise*? _____

When we consider the case of the Woman with the Issue of Blood these are the facts:

- 1) She was sick for 12 years.
- 2) She had seen all the doctors.
- 3) She had been through many difficult treatments.
- 4) She had spent all that she had.
- 5) She had grown worse.

As if that wasn't enough, because of her particular condition, she was considered ritually unclean. Anything she touched became defiled. Anyone who touched her became unclean.

From Mark 5:

- Who did this woman hear about? verse 27
- How did she express what seemed to be her last hope? verse 28
- What happened? verse 29

Is there anything in your life right now that corresponds with the need of this woman? It doesn't have to be an illness and it doesn't have to have lasted twelve years. It doesn't even have to be a big thing; it only has to be something that you cannot fix yourself – that thing that can only be done by God.

- In simple terms (a word or two) name the area of need here.

An interesting note in this story is the fact that a multitude of people were following Jesus and pressing in on Him (verse 24), to the degree that when Jesus asked the question "*Who touched My clothes?*" the disciples were surprised. One commentator makes the note that Jesus was able to "*distinguish the touch of one who in faith expected deliverance from the inadvertent touch of those crowding against Him.*"

Clarence Macartney says this: "*Crowds have thronged him; who will touch him? Who will touch him, now? Would you not like to stretch forth your hand and touch him now? 'Jesus of Nazareth passeth by!'*"

Stretch forth your hand and touch Jesus now in prayer. Ask Him, in simple and specific terms, for what it is you need.

Jesus' answer to this woman was, "*Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction.*"

Faith is the hand that touched the hem of His garment. Hebrews 10:38 NASB says, "*But My righteous one shall live by faith.*"

Memory Verse:

"Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise" (Hebrews 10:35-36 NKJ). This is our memory verse this week – begin memorizing it today!

Fourth Day

Her Gifts

Women view life from a unique vantage point: God has given us the ability not only to look with our eyes, but also to see with our hearts. Developing our understanding of who God is will help us make the most of how we are designed and will prepare us for discovering where it is we fit into His overall plan so that we can devote ourselves to serving Him at full capacity!

Today we will look more closely at the topic of *spiritual gifts* and how God intends for them to be used. You may or may not see these gifts exhibited in our three stories this week, but a working understanding of what they are and how they are used will be beneficial to you, both in intellectual learning and practical application.

Read **I Corinthians 12:1-31** carefully.

The following is an abbreviated version of the list contained in I Corinthians 12 and a brief definition about each of the nine gifts mentioned in this passage:

- *Word of wisdom*: insight into doctrinal truth. Includes the ability to understand God's Word and His will, and to apply that understanding to daily life.
- *Word of knowledge*: the ability to understand and speak God's truth with insight that cannot be known apart from God's revelation.
- *Faith*: distinct from saving faith, this gift is exercised in persistent prayer and is coupled with an usual measure of trust in God – exceeding what is normal - in the midst of trying circumstances.
- *Healing*: the ability to restore to health through God's divine intervention.
- *Working of Miracles*: the working of a divine act contrary to nature, eliminating any explanation other than the fact that the act was done through the power of God.
- *Prophecy*: the ability (like that of the Old Testament prophets) to declare a message of God to His people.
- *Discernment of spirits*: the God-given ability to recognize lying spirits and erroneous doctrine.
- *Tongues*: the ability to speak an unlearned foreign language.
- *Interpretation*: the ability to translate an unlearned language and express it to an assembly.

While stressing the diversity of these gifts, Paul the Apostle also emphasizes that the source of all the gifts is the Holy Spirit. He alone allocates each gift as He chooses.

According to I Corinthians 12, there are many members in the body of Christ, yet only one body. God's desire, therefore, is unity, that there be no divisions, and that every part would work together in oneness to glorify Him.

Look over this list again. Do you see any of the above gifts in operation in the lives of the women in our study this week? If so, note which ones and give a brief explanation of how you see it being used.

Woman Caught in Adultery _____

Syrophoenician Woman _____

Woman with the Issue of Blood _____

Do you see any of the gifts mentioned in operation in your life right now? If so, which ones and how are you using them? _____

Each of the women in our stories this week met Jesus and was touched by Him in a unique and personal way. Each had an opportunity to surrender their wills to Him and to have Him meet their deepest need. Although we don't know the outcome of their lives, each one also had the opportunity to discover and experience the purpose Christ had for her in His overall plan. He took the time to forgive a sinful woman, heal one with a long-term illness and deliver the child of a mother who pleaded for wholeness. How can we doubt that we, too, are singled out for His special touch? Have you asked Him this week to meet *your* deepest need?

Fifth Day

Her Legacy

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)

How will you be remembered? How would you like to be remembered? What will you leave behind of benefit for others? What you do and say today will leave imprints for others to view tomorrow.

Taking a closer look...

- What single lasting impression did these women leave with you this week:

Woman Caught in Adultery

Syrophoenician Woman

Woman with the Issue of Blood

Taking a personal look...

- Select one of the women from your lesson and share how her example impacted you personally.

- How did she encourage you in your walk with Christ?

Passing it on...

- What did you gain from this week's study that is worthy of passing on to someone else?

Commit this to prayer today and ask the Lord to give you an opportunity in the coming week to minister for Him. Record what happens as you step out in obedience.

Sixth Day

Your Prayer

Each day this week you have examined up close – face to face – a woman of the Bible: her *story and manner; her promise and hope; her gifts and legacy*. Throughout the process, as you learned about her, you also learned about yourself.

Now the focus shifts to *Your Prayer*. Each week during your group time you will have the opportunity to pray in agreement with the other ladies for the things you write down on this personalized page. Keep an updated account in the *Praise* list each week as God answers your petitions. This year let's come boldly to His throne and learn to pray the **BIG PRAYER** with expectancy! The only prerequisite for such boldness is being *humble and real* in His presence.

Prayer: Write out your prayer for each of the following...

I praise God for (an aspect of His marvelous character) _____

I confess to God _____

I thank God for _____

I ask God for _____

Promise: Write out this week's *promise* in the space provided...and learn to pray this promise from Scripture.

Praise: If God has answered a prayer request for you this week or fulfilled a desire of your heart, please write it out and date it as a stone of remembrance.

Notes

© 2001 Janis Vance and Linda Osborne, Harvest Women's Bible Fellowship, 6115 Arlington, Riverside, CA 92504.