

SOMEBODY TOUCHED ME

LUKE 8:46 • TV215B

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Luke 8:46

“And Jesus said, somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.”

I want to read a story from the Word of God. This story is recorded in the book of **Mark** and it is recorded in the book of **Luke**.

I will be reading from the book of **Luke, the 8th chapter**. We will begin with **Luke 8:43**: *“And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, came behind Him and touched the border of His garment and immediately her issue of blood stopped and Jesus said; who touched me?”*

When everyone denied, Peter said to Him, *“Master; the multitude throng Thee and the people push against Thee and you say, “Who touched me?”* The Master said, *“Somebody touched me for I perceive that virtue (power) is gone forth from me; somebody touched me.”*

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My friend; I want this sermon that I am going to preach today to be a special blessing to you. I have prepared this sermon for myself and for you. This is just not another sermon; God help us.

We should not to get into a rut of just preaching sermons and you just hearing sermons (when you are not really hearing them at all). Let's pray that we might have a good word from God. Wouldn't that be something?

When is a sermon a blessing? Have you ever thought about that, when is a sermon a blessing? I believe that there are five parts of a sermon that are a blessing.

First of all: It has to come from the messenger's heart to the hearer's heart. Now, that just has to be so if the sermon is going to be a blessing. I will tell you this; this message truly and sincerely comes from my heart to your heart. I can identify with this woman and I hope you can.

Secondly: When is a message a blessing? A message is a blessing when it is obviously true to the Word of God. In this story that I have read to you, I have read directly from the Word of God. I am going to be preaching, "*Thus saith the Lord.*" So, a message will be a blessing when it is obviously true to the Scriptures.

Thirdly: A message is a blessing when that message is heard. Somebody said, "Well; I heard this preacher." Did you really hear him? Did you really listen with interest? Did you understand what he was saying?

I am going to make this as plain as I can make it and I trust make it as interesting as I can. Actually, all Scripture ought to be interesting to us. Do we find God's Word uninteresting?

The disciple said, "*The multitude throngs you. Everybody is pressing you and you say; who touched me?*" He said, "*Somebody did; somebody touched Me. I perceive power is gone out of me.*" I am interested in what is going on here.

Fourthly: The message is a blessing when it meets a particular need of both messenger and hearer. I am not preaching down to you; I am trying, together, to search the Scriptures and find the way of redemption. Let's see if we can find the way of life. This Word meets our need for we are in need of mercy just like this woman. We are in need of grace and mercy, grace to help in time of need and mercy to help in time of need.

Fifthly: I will tell you when a sermon is a blessing. When the sermon leaves a hearer he rejoices in the Lord, not in himself but in the Lord and he is determined to seek God's mercy.

Now, that message will be a blessing. It is not a blessing if it only serves to harden men in their positions, their prejudice, pride, and vain philosophy.

Here is a woman who had been ill, seriously ill, for twelve long years. She had spent everything she had. Evidently she had some savings, evidently she had some income, and evidently she had something.

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She had spent everything she had on recommended cures, on physicians and doctors. She was not one bit better, in fact, “*she only grew worse.*” She was slowly, slowly, dying.

Mark said that she heard of Christ and she said, “*If I can get to Him and if I can touch even His garment, I will be made whole.*”

She heard that Christ was in this particular place at this particular time. This woman who was so seriously ill, the very life bleeding from her, came behind Him. Evidently, crawling on the ground, she made her way to Christ and reached out and touched Him.

The Scripture says that she touched the border or the hem of His garment and just like that she was healed. Immediately her blood flow stopped and she was made well.

Our Master stopped and said; “*who touched me?*” The disciples said, “Well Lord, everybody has brushed up against you, thronged you, and pressed you.” You ask, “Who touched me?” He said, “*Somebody touched me.*”

There is no name given; she never is named. Did you notice that? We never find out who this is. No one ever knows who this is. We can’t even speculate. There is no name and there is no distinction.

That is all that is said about it; that is what she is called, “somebody.” Christ said, “*Somebody touched me.*” Power, virtue, and healing went forth from Him.

I will tell you this and I know this to be true; I don’t have a doubt about this; the Lord God Almighty is going to show mercy to somebody just like He did to that somebody. That’s right; He said, “*I will be merciful.*”

God will be just, God will be righteous, and God will be Holy. Thank God, He will be merciful. He is going to show mercy to somebody. “*He is plenteous in mercy and He delights to show mercy.*” He is going to be merciful to somebody and I want to be that somebody, don’t you?

I will tell you something else; He came into the world to save somebody. That’s right; Jesus Christ did not come in vain. “*He shall not fail.*” He has a people. I’m going to tell you something; heaven will be populated with a people just like Christ.

Somebody is going to glory. Somebody is going to hear the trumpet and somebody is going to rise and somebody is going to see Him face to face. Somebody is going to be made like Him and somebody is going to be a “*joint heir*” with Him. I want to be that somebody with no special influence, just somebody.

I will tell you this; the Holy Spirit is going to regenerate and call somebody. His mission in this world is to call out a people for God’s name. He is going to do it; He is going to call them out.

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Somebody is going to be raised from the grave. Somebody is going to ascend to life eternal. Somebody is going to be made like Christ. Somebody is going to enjoy heaven's glory. Somebody, I want to be that somebody.

I feel like the apostle Paul who said, "*O that I may win Christ.*" Let's not get so taken up with world visions, world missions, and world this, that and the other that we neglect our own vineyard. I want to "*win Christ and be found in Him.*" I want to know Him "*and the power of His resurrection.*"

The apostle Paul was no selfish man; he was a man who had compassion upon the multitude and a burden for sinners. He said, "*If by any means I might obtain unto the resurrection of the dead.*" That is what this woman said, "if I can just get to Christ; I will be made whole."

I want you to look at this story again. Maybe, just maybe, God will do for us today, what he did for Mrs. Somebody. Wouldn't that be a blessing? Wouldn't that be something?

This somebody came to Christ as a cripple and walked away and was made whole. This somebody came to Christ with a disease and was dying and went away living and cured. This somebody came to Christ unclean and went away righteous in Him. "*Somebody touched me.*"

All right, let's look at the story. There are three or four things that I want to tell you about:

First of all: I know this; this somebody had been sick a long, long, time.

It says that she had been sick for 12 years. That's a long time to be sick isn't it? Let me tell you something; you and I have been sick a lot longer than that. Our sickness is older than hers. Hers was only a physical illness; ours is a spiritual illness. That's right; we were born sick.

I know this is offensive. I know that there are many people who do not like it and there are many preachers who do not preach it. The Word of God declares this and I want you listen to me; I am telling you the truth; this somebody had been sick a long time and this somebody has been a sinner a long time.

It says in **Psalm 51:5**; "*behold; I was shapen in iniquity. In sin my mother conceived me.*" Were we born in sin? Yes sir; we were born in sin. Sin is just not an act it is a principle. Sin is not just an action it is a nature. We are born with that nature.

You don't have to teach children to be selfish. You don't have to teach them to hate. You don't have to teach them to steal. You don't have to teach them any of these things. Children are born knowing these things. They are born with this desire and inclination within them.

This is what it says in **Psalm 58:3**; "*the wicked are estranged from the womb. They go astray as soon as they are born speaking lies.*"

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Wait a minute! It's just like one old preacher use to say; "get a hold of your bench there; we are going to jump a creek." Our sins go back farther than that. Do you mean that our sins go back farther than our birth? That's right! Mankind's sickness goes back farther than our birth.

We are born from a race that was already fallen when we were born. It goes back farther than even our birth for it says, "*in Adam we all died.*" That is what it says in **Romans 5:12**; "*By one man's disobedience, (our father Adam, our representative), sin entered the world and death by sin. And so death passed upon all men for all have sinned.*"

When Adam sinned, death, disease, sin passed upon all men. Sin and death is a disease of all men. That is what the Scripture teaches. Sin is just not an outward deformity but it is a principle of evil. We have a principle of evil.

We don't love our neighbors as ourselves. We don't love God with all our hearts, we love ourselves. We are selfish, sinful, and corrupt. That's right! Our motives are evil. It is an inward corruption. We are flesh. "*Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God;*" we are guilty.

"What the law saith, it saith to everyone under the law that every mouth may be stopped and all the world become guilty before God."

This somebody here has been sick for 12 years. We have been sick a lot longer than that. Our disease goes back to our birth. Our disease goes all the way back to our fallen Adam.

My friend; listen to me; I am going to tell you the truth; I cannot convince you of sin. It would be easy for me to convince you of certain things that you have done that are evil; that is no problem at all. I can't convince you of the source of the evil, of the root of your evil. I cannot convince you why you do these things, why it is so much easier to do wrong than right.

Why is it so much easier to hate than to love? Why is it so much easier to sin than it is to live holy? I cannot convince you of that, only God the Holy Spirit can do it.

I will tell you what the Word says; it is the principle, the nature of sin that is born in us. That's the source. That is what God sees. "*God does not look on the outward countenance; He looks on the heart.*" "*Keep your heart; out of it are the issues of life.*"

It is not what goes in a man's mouth that defiles Him. That is what most preachers would have you believe. They would have you to believe that if you clean up the outward man that everything is alright.

The Scriptures do not say that; the Scriptures say "*you can clean up the outside but the inside will still be like a grave, full of dead men's bones.*" You can clean up the outside of the cup but the inside is full of corruption and excess.

"Cleanse first that which is within" and only God can do that. God will do that when we are made to recognize it, own it, confess it and ask for mercy. That's where the problem is. David said,

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“My sins are ever before me.” Job said, *“I hate myself.”* Isaiah said, *“Woe is me; I am a man of unclean lips.”*

So, this somebody has been sick a long time. This somebody and that somebody who I am talking to, have a sickness that sometimes we don't even know about. Our sickness is on the inside; it is in the heart; and it is in the bones. It is in the bowels and in the nature and it is in the *“innermost being.”*

This sickness is rottenness, an evil and corruption that is born there. That is what God sees and that is what God has to deal with. All of our outward actions are affected by that awful and evil person that we are within. Do you have this problem? Everyone has problem.

This somebody could find no cure. This somebody looked everywhere. She spent everything that she had. She went here; she went there. She tried everything that anyone ever told her to try. She couldn't find a cure; she just couldn't find a cure.

I'm telling you this; that evil of sin, that disease of which we are born, the sin that we inherited by our daddy Adam, is incurable by human works. It is incurable by human efforts. It is incurable by human deeds.

You may look to yourself and look to others for relief just like this somebody did. You look in vain. The law cannot heal you. God says, *“By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified.”*

The works of religion can't heal you. It's *“not by works of righteousness which we have done. According to His mercy hath He saved us.”* Actually, our righteousness, our works of religion in God's sight are *“filthy rags.”* They are imperfect.

We can accept deeds, words, and acts that are imperfect because we are imperfect. God can't accept anything that is unlike Him. *“It has to be perfect to be accepted.”*

Whatever we bring to God, praise, prayer, gifts or whatever is imperfect. God has to refuse it and it is *“coming short of the glory of God.”*

The works of religion can't help us. The ordinances such as baptism and the Lord's Supper can't cure this inward disease. Water can wash my skin but not my heart. I may put the bread and wine in my mouth which goes into my stomach and out my bowels but it does not touch or change my sin nature. I have to have something that reaches deeper. I have to have something that goes deeper than the stain that is gone, deeper than the infection.

The preacher can't do it and the priest can't do it. Who is going to? He can't do anything about his own sin. He can't do anything about his own nature.

No dead saint can do it. I was talking to a man recently down in Tennessee and I said; “do you believe in Christ?” He said, “yes; and I believe in Saint Joe, Saint Jude, and Saint Luke too.”

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I told him that they could not help him, they were dead. Christ lives. *“Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”*

This somebody had been sick so long that she looked everywhere and no one could help her. She grew worse, and worse, and worse. Finally; now listen, this somebody heard of Jesus Christ. She heard! In the Scripture of **Mark 5:27**, he said; *“when she heard of Jesus, she came.”* Tell me the story of Jesus.

That is what I am trying to do. I am not trying to promote an organization, promote a hospital or trying to promote anything else. I am trying to promote the Gospel of the Son of God.

I hear all of these preachers talking about the Gospel but hardly any of them are preaching the Gospel. They are spending their time raising money to preach the Gospel which they never preach.

This woman heard of Christ. People are not going to hear of Christ until we start telling them about Christ and preaching Christ. She would have never come to Christ, believed on Christ, called upon Christ or touched Christ if she had not heard of Him.

“You can’t believe on Him of whom you haven’t heard. You can’t call on Him in whom you haven’t believed.” This somebody heard of Christ. Somebody told this somebody about the Lord Jesus Christ.

They told her of His power, His grace, His glory and His goodness. They told her about Christ and she heard. Have you heard? Have you heard the story of Jesus?

“Tell me the story most precious
Sweetest that ever was heard.”

Oh how important is the preaching of the Gospel! The Scripture says, *“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth: Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of truth. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”*

Christ said to His disciples *“go and preach the Gospel to every creature.”* Paul said, *“In whom you trusted after you heard the Gospel of your salvation.”* This is the Gospel of God’s grace and glory, that Gospel concerning His Son. Somebody heard of Christ.

Fourthly: What did she do?

This somebody came to Him. Now, you listen to me; I am getting to the heart of this thing. Mark said, *“When she heard of Jesus she came in the crowd behind Him and touched His garment.”* She heard of Christ and she came to Him.

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She didn't come to His apostles all dressed up in the uniforms of religion. She didn't come to His manger and buy some of the hay. She didn't come to His mother. She didn't come to His doctrines. She didn't come to His church and she didn't come to His law.

Can't you just see her touching the law, the commandments, and the table of stones that Moses brought down from the mountain? If she would have gone over and touched the stones it would kill her instead of curing her.

She didn't come to the front of the church. She didn't come to the River Jordan; she came to Him. Do you see what I am saying?

This is what frightens me today about today's religion; it scares me to death. Men are coming for salvation to everything and everybody but Jesus Christ.

He is the fountain of life. He is the source of mercy. He is the living Lord. He is the redeemer of His people.

She heard! She didn't go to a soul-winner or to the manger or to His mother; she came to Him. She said, "*If I can touch Him, I will be made whole.*"

People today are flocking to the front and shaking hands. Now, what did you accomplish by that? People come to organizations, altars, and ordinances. They come dry and go away wet. They come to decisions, doctrines, and creeds.

They come to building, rallies, holy days and holidays. Oh, if they could just see that salvation is in a person. He said, "*Come unto me.*" He couldn't make it plainer if words mean anything.

He doesn't say "come to the front and I will give you rest;" He said "*come to me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.*"

He stood that last day of the feast, that great day, and said; "*behold, if any man thirst let him come to me.*"

Don't you stop short of Christ because He is the fountain of life. The Scripture says, "*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out. If the Son shall make you free, you will be free indeed.*"

The Son will have to do it because He is our Prophet to reveal God. He is our Priest to offer that perfect and perfecting sacrifice and He is our King to reign over us. He is our righteousness to cover our nakedness and He is our sanctification to present us holy before God.

He is our great Mediator who prays for us and you must come to Him. My friend; don't allow a man or a plan. Don't allow a creed or a ceremony to substitute for Jesus Christ.

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Fifthly: In closing; this somebody has been sick a long time. This somebody has been a sinner a long time.

This somebody heard of Christ; she heard of Christ. When she could find no relief and no help from any other source, she heard of Christ. She said, *“If I can get to Him and touch Him, I will be made whole.”*

My friend; she came to Christ. Don't miss that. That is the vital part of this message and it is the thing that frightens me about all religion, fundamentalism, denominationalism, and evangelism.

There is Hollywood's style of evangelism when people flock to the front of the church and are making decisions, making professions. They count noses, the baptisms, and report great success.

Did you come to Christ or did you come to a person, a man? Did you come to Christ or did you come to a mourner's bench? Did you come to an altar or did you come to an ordinance? This woman got to Christ.

Listen; it says, *“And she touched Him and immediately she was made whole.”* Christ stopped and said; *“who touched me?”* The disciples said, *“Lord; there is a big crowd of people here and they are all pressing against you and have thronged about you and you ask, who touched me?”*

He said, *“Somebody, touched me.”* What made her touch different from the others? Have you thought about that? What made her touch different from the others? Why did the Master take note of her touch?

The disciples will tell you the truth; many people had brushed against Him, shoved Him, and clamored about Him. But, somebody touched Him. Do you want me to tell you the difference? It is the difference that saves.

First of all: Her touch was a touch of faith.

Those other people there were there out of curiosity. She was there because she believed. They were there to see the show. They were there to be fed. They were there to receive alms. They were there to get a free handout. They were there to get a meal. They were there to get health and wealth.

People will say, “Empty your pocketbook; God will fill it.” They were there to get some kind of something else. This woman believed Him; she believed Him.

Our Lord said, *“If you can believe, all things are possible to them that believe.”* She believed. Hers was a touch of faith.

I will tell you something else; hers was a touch of need; she needed Him. She was helpless and hopeless and without strength. She needed Him. When she touched Him out of that desperate need, power went out of Him into her.

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I will tell you something else; hers was a touch of submission. All else had failed. He was her only hope and she knew it. She came to Him in total submission. She said, "He is my only hope. He is my all. He is my objective; I must get to Christ. If I can touch Him I will be made whole."

I will tell you this; in desperation, in sincerity, in need, with faith, you can lay hold of Christ if you can call upon Him. Out of your weakness call upon His strength; out of your sin call upon His holiness; out of your helplessness, call on His ability; you will be made whole.

“My hope, (my friend), is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and His righteousness,
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood,
When all around my soul give way
He is my only hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I, (somebody) in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless (in Christ) to stand before His throne.