

The Relational Master

Following Jesus to
live a life of love in
all things



Thursday ~ Mark 5:21-34

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

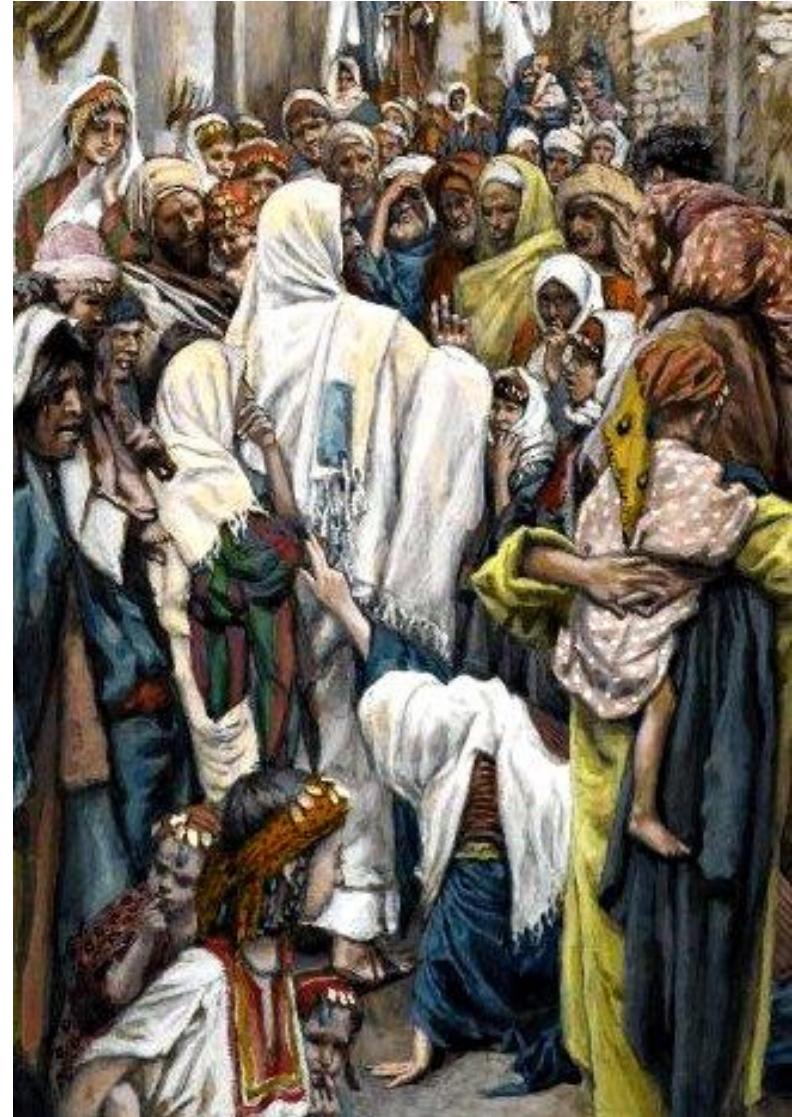
“You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”

But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Drama in two Parts

Characters:

- Jesus the Rabbi
- Jairus, the synagogue ruler
- Jairus' daughter
- Woman with bleeding
- The disciples
- The crowd



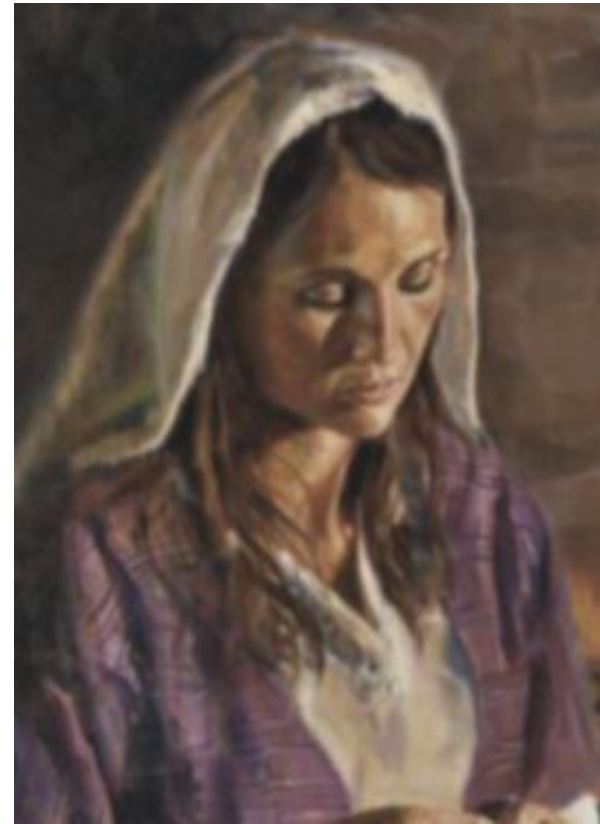
Who was Jairus?

- Status in community: synagogue ruler
- Economic situation: wealthy
- Problem: only daughter sick
- Confidence in approaching the Rabbi: high
- Extent of his faith: come and lay hands



Who was the woman?

- Status in community: excluded as unclean
- Economic situation: poor
- Problem: bleeding for 12 yrs
- Confidence in approaching the Rabbi: zero
- Extent of her faith: touch Jesus' cloak



The touch

- Jesus sensed power go out from him
- He stopped his urgent mission
- Disciples' reaction
- Reaction of Jairus
- Woman's reaction
- Crowd's reaction



Trembling with fear

- She was a woman
- She made the Rabbi unclean
- She made others unclean
- She stopped the Rabbi healing Jairus' daughter
- She expected harsh rebuke
- She 'stole' from the Rabbi



Jesus' relational response

- He accepted her and called her 'Daughter'
- He affirmed her faith and declared her healed
- He freed her from suffering
- He blessed her with shalom
- He restored her to the community



The second part



Points for discussion

- Is Jesus the Lord of interruptions to our busy lives?
- How can we help people to 'see' the marginalised in our communities?
- Do we see the relational consequences of sickness?

James Tissot: before



James Tissot: after

