

DON'T GIVE UP

(St. Mark 5:25-34)

The message today about the woman with the issue of blood is simple but yet profound. It is a message that deals specifically with the fact that there are some situations in our lives that can cause us so much distress that giving up seems to be the only option.

I believe that many times the familiarity of a story causes us to miss something new and fresh that the Holy Spirit may be trying to say to us. This is one of those passages in scripture. However I believe that there are many things beneath the surface that God is saying to us through this passage.

What does this lesson teach us? The bible states first of all that this woman had an issue of blood for twelve years. Twelve years is a very long time to be hemorrhaging and in pain. However, we understand through her infirmity that sometimes seasons are long. Sometimes we pray about certain things and the process is immediate or we receive our breakthrough in a short amount of time. However, sometimes our seasons are long and we have to be willing to believe God and persevere until we get our breakthrough.

We learn also that a delay is not necessarily a denial. God may not come when we want him but he is always on time. Even if he does not change the condition, he will condition you for the change.

Not only was her season long but the bible says that she suffered many things of many physicians. Perhaps she suffered being misdiagnosed. Perhaps she was treated with the insensitivity of doctors with bad bedside manners which caused embarrassment and emotional pain as well as physical. The sad thing is that in spite of the fact that she had been seen by many physicians, the bible states that she did not get any better, but in fact got worse. What does that teach us? It teaches us that sometimes things get worse before they get better. However if we stand on the word of God, he is able to turn our darkness into light and turn our situations around.

We also learn from this lesson that money cannot buy divine health; that Doctors knowledge is limited, that faith moves God and that trouble doesn't last always.

In spite of what this woman went through, she never gave up hope. She heard that Jesus was passing by and she said,*"If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole."* (St. Mark 5:28).

She touched not only his hem, but she touched HIM. The Bible said that immediately she was healed.

The bible goes on to say that Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" The disciples did not even understand the question because there were so many people there but this woman was the only one who understood the question because her touch was a touch of faith.

No matter what we go through in this life, giving up must never be an option. We serve the real God and he is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or even think of him. Let us stand on the promises of God until we receive our breakthrough. **DON'T GIVE UP!!!**