

WE ARE FAMILY



‘Family - wholeness’

These notes are a little different - we are going to spend a little longer in the passage & prayer.

READ: Luke 8:42b - 48

Explore:

The Woman's Condition:

- Had been bleeding for 12 years - *physically ill*
- Unclean (Lev 15), not able to associate with people closely - *relationally isolated*
- *Spiritually Alone* - being unclean meant that people shunned her - would have to wait 7 days after the bleeding stopped to be pronounced clean by the priests - but this never happened.
- *Financially Bankrupt* - she had spent all her 'life earnings' on doctors - but the condition had only gotten worse.

- She was *desperate* - had come to the end of herself - broken (came *trembling* at his feet)

The Woman's Faith:

- There was an old legend based on Jewish prayer shawl tassels (canaph - fringe - tzitzit - tassels) (Num 15:38-39) - & Malachi 4:2 "Healing in his wings". That the Messiah, the chosen one of God would have healing power in the edges of his garment. The women believed in Jesus., that he was from God. And just a touch of his garment would restore her (see Mark 5:28)

Jesus Response:

- Jesus responded to her faith - he realised that someone in the crowd believed in him.
- She was made whole - *physical, relational, emotional & spiritually whole...*
- But - it took a step of faith - how much faith - enough to reach out her hand, to touch the fringes of Jesus.

In this story there is a desperate desire from the woman to be made whole. She had faith in Jesus - *how much faith?* - Just enough to reach out her hand in hope, that if she could touch his hem she would be healed.

- *What does this story tell you about God?*
- *What difficulties does it raise for you?*
- *As a group how can you wrestle with some of these difficulties?*
- *Who do you know that in are in a place of desperation to be made whole?*
- *Who can you pray for today?*

Remember - we simply don't know why God heals some, and not others. But as followers of Jesus we are called to pray for those who are sick (physical, relational, spiritual, mental, emotional). We bring our simple faith and ask God to move - **take some time to do that now.**