

Dig-a-bit Month 6 Episode 1

Conversations: Touching Jesus

[00:00:00] Okay. Good morning. I hope that you're having a great day. I am here in, let's see, Panama City Beach, Florida. I have Colleyanna with me and we are about to go out for the first time. So we got here late last night because I'm speaking tomorrow for, a ladies day with the wonderful women at the Emerald Beach Church.

And so I'm very excited about that. Colleyanna and I are excited. It's so nice to put us in a little casita that's just a few minutes walk to the water, the big water. And we are so thankful for our blessings that we have from God this weekend. I really wanted to get Colleyanna to talk with me, but I brought the wrong kind of microphone.

I brought my shocks that just go on my ears. And so I don't think you could hear Collyanna if she were talking. So we're going to talk just for a few minutes. Happy [00:01:00] Valentine's Day! As I'm talking it's Valentine's Day and I have one of my favorite Valentines here with me and I'm so thankful for that.

I don't know if you can hear it in the background but we have a loud chirping smoke detector this morning. So we're on our way out to get an 9-volt battery to make that stop chirping at us,

But today we're going to go get a battery and while we're there, we're going to visit a donut shop and we're going to get some supplies that we need. And we are, I guess you can tell that Colleyanna is listening to me here because I'm talking to all the fun things we're going to do. So before we do though, I've been up this morning studying from Hebrews chapter four.

And so I'm going to talk for just a minute from that text. This is, in Matthew chapter nine and Mark five and Luke eight. We read about this woman with, a chronic illness. She had been bleeding for a very long time, [00:02:00] and nothing could be done. She had gone to doctors, but nothing could be done. I don't know if you're on the page here, but think about menstrual cycle.

Think about nonstop bleeding for 12 years. We're talking a real problem that she had. Bigger problem because she was, The Jewish nation, and there were strict laws and we read those laws in Leviticus 15. Every bed, every chair, every saddle that she sat on was unclean. Anyone touching her was unclean.

Anybody in contact with her saliva or her, anybody was unclean and unclean meant that you had to wash all of your clothes and you had to wash yourself and you had to stay away from people completely until the evening. If you, if she touched any vessel, any clay pot, that clay pot had to [00:03:00] be broken, destroyed.

If she touched a wooden vessel, it had to be washed. And she herself, if ever cleansed from this, would go seven days unclean when she was cleansed. It was just a huge and very, Isolating problem that she had dwelt with, lived with, for a long time. And her husband, if she had a husband, was unable to come and have relations with her for that entire period of time.

We're talking a real crippling illness. That she had. We know some things about her. We know she was meek. We know she was quiet. We know that she was embarrassed. We know that she was fearful as she came to Jesus. And she also attempted to be under the radar. To [00:04:00] press through the feet of the people who were around Jesus and just touch his garment.

And she thought that if she could just touch his garment, then she would be cleansed. So she displayed great faith when she came to Jesus. I wanted us to look, just for a minute, at Hebrews chapter 4. And I asked you to read from Hebrews chapter 4 and talk about the fact that Jesus In her case, Jesus could be touched with her infirmity.

What a great example, parallel that is for us. Jesus was touched with her infirmities, but Hebrews chapter four says the same advocate. We don't have an advocate who cannot be touched with our infirmities or affected by the fact that we're going through trials. But He Himself was tempted in every point.

He was tried in every point, as we are, yet without sin. And so [00:05:00] that's who we have that goes to the Father before us, is someone who completely understands every trial that we ever encounter. And so as I was thinking about Hebrews 4, I looked at some of the blessings that we have. When we touch Jesus, when we, as it were, humble ourselves and go through the throng, the tumult of this world and decide that He is the one who has the answers to our problems, as she did in a physical sense at this time, so we do.

Spiritually, when we decide that we want to fully submit to Christ. As we look at Hebrews 4, I just want us to notice real quickly three blessings that we get when we touch Jesus. The first one is, it says in verse 2, To us the gospel was preached as well as to them, this is the Jews as well as to the Gentiles, but the

word preached didn't profit them not being mixed with faith [00:06:00] with those who heard it.

And then it says in verse three, for those of us who have believed, actually it's talking about Christians versus unbelievers here. For those of us who have believed, do enter into rest. As he said, I've sworn my wrath if they shall enter into my rest. Although the works were finished from the foundation of the world for he spoke in a certain place of the seventh day on this in This manner and God did rest the seventh day from all his works, and then he goes on to tell us that Just as God rested when we contact the blood of Christ.

We have a rest, but let's see what that rest involves Seeing therefore it remains that some must enter therein verse 6 And those to whom it was first preached didn't enter in because of their disobedience. Again, he limits a certain day, saying in David, [00:07:00] Today, after so long a time, as it is said, Today, if you will hear his voice, don't harden your hearts.

For Joshua had given them rest, then would he not, for if Joshua had given them rest already, then he would not afterward have spoken of another day. So he's talking about the Old Testament, but there's this day coming when we are to harden not our hearts as in the day of provocation. You can look at also At chapter three of Hebrews, verse seven there, if you want to look at that.

So it says, Therefore, in verse nine, there is a rest to, a Sabbath rest for the people of God. A figurative Sabbath rest for the people of God today. For he who is entered into his rest has also ceased from his own works as God did from his. So let's give diligence to enter into that rest. Lest any man, after the same example of disobedience.

[00:08:00] Lest any man fall after the same example of disobedience, and then it tells, it describes the word as we know as being quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword. The rest that he's talking about here is, in the Old Testament, there were Lots of rituals, lots of works, just as we've been reading about in Leviticus 15, lots of purification rituals, sacrifice rituals of cleansing, rituals of, offering tithes, rituals of what kind of work could be done on the, there were all kinds of rituals in the Old Testament that the people had to work to attempt.

To keep in the Old Testament times and that was Exhausting and could not give the eternal benefit that our sacrifice has given us so the rest that we have the Sabbath rest that we have in this final era of time [00:09:00] is Verse 11 Let's

see verse 10 for he who is entered into his rest. He's defining it here for us the rest that we have today is that we don't have to depend on our own works.

We have ceased from depending on our own works. In the same way that God rested on the seventh day, He began by His Sabbath rest, preparing us for a permanent rest from depending on our good works. What if we had to keep every ritual, every sacrifice, every tithe, every Oh, the Levitical laws are so encumbering and yet we are free from those.

We are resting in Christ. And I know that we all know that doesn't mean that we don't have responsibilities, but we don't [00:10:00] have that ritualistic law that requires so much daily ritual. What we have is a spiritual from the heart kind of sacrifice. And Jesus has given us rest from our own works.

Do you think that this woman had rest when she touched Jesus? It says that she knew what happened in her body immediately. Do you think she had a calm relief from this ritualistic kind of cleansing that had to constantly go on all around her from Leviticus 15. Yeah, she had rest. Secondly, the passage tells us that we have, as a result of touching Jesus, a profession.

So let's go ahead and read, seeing then. That we have a great high priest, that's who she [00:11:00] touched, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession or confession. Do you think that was the only day she ever said, Lord, I believe? No, she held fast to her profession in the literal telling people about what Jesus had done for her.

We have a great high priest. Let us hold fast our confession. We get to profess Christianity in front of this world. And she had a new profession from that point as she left Jesus. The third blessing that is just an obvious one is mercy. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace so that we can have mercy.

And find the grace that we need when we need it. [00:12:00] Don't you realize, don't you know that as she was leaving, that touch, that day, that she would never forget what the hem of that garment looked like. I don't know what it looked like, but she knew it until the day that she died. And through eternity, we have memory in heaven, and I believe we do.

Good memory. Remember, she Would never ever forget the moment of mercy. The moment she dared not hope for, but was freely given. Ladies, oh, we cannot dare hope for the kind of mercy that we've been given to escape the eternal punishment burden of sin. But, we touched Jesus. And we touch Him, Romans 6:3,4 in the waters of baptism.

And when we are baptized into [00:13:00] Christ, then we get the permanent cleansing. She got permanent cleansing from her issue of blood that day. She knew when it happened. It happened in a moment. That's how it is with us. When we touch Jesus in the waters of baptism, We put him on. We have to come humbly. We have to realize our sin.

We have to realize, like she did, how unworthy we are and submit to what he has asked us to do and realize that it is for the remission of sins. When we are baptized into Christ, that's where we touch him. It's a moment. When we become cleansed and all of the dirtiness around us that surrounds our sin is gone from us.

And we get to have, we get to enjoy full mercy. And I know that her gratitude was so [00:14:00] great that day. Ours should be even greater because he cleansed her for the rest of her life from this issue of blood. Oh, that's huge. The rest of her life. But he cleanses us when we touch him for eternity.

And how much more gratitude should we be showing for the mercy? That comes when we come in contact with the Savior of Galilee. What a wonderful parallel we have here. I hope you have a great day.