

Dear Coach's Wife,

As we close out 2023, do you carry an unresolved issue... that one thing that just won't go away? Maybe you have accepted it. You endure while things are declining because you don't have the energy to deal with it.

*Mark 5:25 "And there was a woman who had a discharge of blood for 12 years."*

She's been known for over 2k years as "the woman with the issue of blood." What a way to go down in history. In her time, the ancient, oral guide for Jewish living had 11 prescriptions for a woman with her problem; everything from drinking onion soup to sitting in a ditch filled with herbs. (So humiliating, can you imagine!) And, each remedy ended with a similar phrase that pretty much said "Arise, you are healed."

*Mark 5:26 "She had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse."*

She was "unclean," isolated, and untouched by others, Leviticus 15:19, while she physically declined for 12 years. However, let's not focus on her health, but explore her faith. In the Bible, the number 12 is considered the number of completion. And, after this woman's 12 years of suffering, and after 11 failed remedies, she decided to go in a different direction.

*Mark 5:27-28 "She had heard reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, 'If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.'"*

Scripture records Jesus wore the traditional Rabbi collar over his shoulders, with tassels on each corner, as a visual reminder of the commandments, Numbers 15:39. Maybe our lady touched this tasseled fringe, or, maybe the actual hem of his robe. Regardless, she touched the walking Word of God, John 1:1-2!

*Mark 5:29-30 "And immediately the flow of blood dried up and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my garment?'"*

This question was not for our lady but for the crowd. Of course, Jesus knew it was her...yet, as a result of his question, she was no longer invisible to those around her. Not only that, immediately she received healing....not from the garment she touched, but in the Savior standing before her.

*Mark 5: 34 "He said to her. 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disgrace.'"*

So, how about you dear coach's wife? Do you harbor a consuming disgrace? Have you tried 11 other things that aren't working? Jesus isn't hyper-focused on your issue, He looks at YOU! You are seen by Him and you can finish 2023 differently. Grab hold of His tasseled garment and rest. For it is the action of your faith... not the fabric... that restores you. Jesus says to you, "Arise, you are healed."

Merry Christmas and much love to you!

Anne