

Discussion Notes

Reach, Touch, Receive (Mark 5:25-34)

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Doug Smith

New Year, Goal Setting

- New Years is usually a time for setting goals.
- Among all the things we often prioritize—diet, fitness, etc.—consider reprioritizing faith.
- Often, we put our faith on the backburner after Sunday, we neglect the fact that our relationship with Jesus takes work.
- Consider Matthew 11:28-30. Deep peace is found in our relationship with Jesus.

Reach, Touch, Receive (Mark 5:25-34)

- The woman who reaches out to touch Jesus in Mark 5 is in despair, but she follows the good testimonies about Jesus and takes bold initiative.
- Her story gives us three verbs to consider as we reprioritize faith for the New Year: reach, touch, and receive.

Reach

- The condition of this woman would have left her weak, she would have been considered unclean and therefore a social outcast.
- She could have faced adversity getting to Jesus, people knew who she was and knew her condition.
- Her story demonstrates that, although Jesus does reach for us, our relationship with Jesus takes our initiative as well.
- Faith requires reaching, asking, seeking, and knocking (Matt. 7:7).

Touch

- She would have been feeling a distance between herself and her Jewish faith.
- She could have been internalizing the negative things people were saying about her.
- However, she ignored the naysayers and reached out to Jesus. No coincidence that she could only gather the courage to catch the very edge of his garment.
- Jesus desires a close relationship with us, but to reach out and touch Him will take some risk.
- Are you close enough to touch Jesus?
- If you touch Jesus, He touches you with His redemptive and healing power.

Receive

- When Jesus inquired about who touched Him, it was most likely to see if the woman was bold enough to bear witness to the healing she received.
- After she acknowledges what she has received, Jesus calls her *daughter*.
- When we reach out and touch Jesus, we receive wholeness and are shown our true identity as children of God.
- The identity we receive from Christ is the resting place of our hope.

Discussion Questions

- What are some ways you can reach for Jesus in your daily life this New Year?
- Do you feel like you are close enough to touch Jesus? What is hindering you if you are not? What is helping you if you are?
- Is there a healing you can bear witness to in your own life? Where could you be called to share your story?
- How does living out of our true identity as children of God affect our everyday living?