

ANONYMOUS SERIES PART THREE
THE NOTICED ONE
MARK 5:21-34
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Intro: (start sermon in audience and go thru list below)

Q have you ever been in a crowd? Sure you have...you're in one now (look around)
Do you like being in them?
 We've all logged time in a crowd... Crowds have energy; some negative, some positive.

Crowds have a ways of stirring up diff emotions – in diff circumstances don't they?
 (ask people to raise hands as I explain these scenerios)

- **Excitement** at a ball game of some kind (UofA football – okay, basketball game)
 - I remember being in HS at a UofA vs UCLA basketball game – thrilling
- **Drained** after spending 3 days traipsing around Disneyland – enduring crowds
 - *Or maybe you've been to San Diego – the beach on 4th of July?...*
- **Entertained & Engaged** at a concert or conference that you got to be apart of...
- **Included** organization → where you feel like you're apart of something bigger than yourself (maybe one of the fundraising charity walks here in town) El Tour de Tucson
- **Irritation** when you didn't realize you'd be on camera today...
 - or show up at in-n-out and 3 buses unload as you get out of your car...thought goes thru your mind – can I beat them to the door – how fast do I need to walk to beat 'em?
- **Frustration** stuck in traffic jams / construction areas
- **Self conscience** peer gathering where we begin to compare ourselves to others
- **Anxiety** new city – new place – new job → trying to find your way around

Maybe you feel at times: anonymous → unnoticed because of all the others, why would anyone's attention gravitate toward you?....

Maybe you've been literally surrounded by lots of people – but felt alone none the less...

CROWDS ARE A PART OF LIFE...and they trigger different emotions within us...

→ talk to your neighbor – the biggest or best crowd you've ever been in? (30 sec)

T Today, I'd like to invite us to join into a crowd – a story – an encounter with Jesus that takes place surrounded by a crowd and what it might speak to us in this moment we find ourselves in...

Mark 5:21-24 (his encounter is in all 3 synoptic gospels)

Jesus has returned – (probably Capernaum)

his notoriety has been growing and many are gathering to be around him. Jairus comes to him and he is a leader in the synagogue (he was responsible for physical management of the building – resp. for services)
 → respected leader

Everyone would have known him! Or of him!

EX:

Ever been to a sporting event – watched one on TV → where the commentators and camera's comment on a 'famous' person that is in the audience. There are all these blurred out – hundreds of people and then the one in focus and highlighted is this person/celeb

- jack nickelson at Laker's games – he's a fixture – the MLB playoffs – see celebs in stands

Jairus is known – he's noticed wherever he goes – noticed by those that are there...

He makes a request out of desperation and Jesus responds – and away they go, everyone is following to see what Jesus might do...they've seen OR heard the stories of how he's healed in miraculous ways – they're anticipating something spectacular to happen again...

All their attention is on the 'important one' among them –

→ focused on where they are going → unaware of what's going on right around them...

You see → there was another there – one who wasn't noticed or known.

But one who was also aware of this man Jesus – the stories about him – the whispers of some calling him the Messiah they'd been awaiting...

Mark 5:25-28

- her name is not given – she's anonymous – unknown – hasn't made it to recognizable status – never been on the jumbotron in her community!

She was passed over – passed by and not even acknowledged

IN THAT COMMUNITY – 1ST CENTURY

Under Jewish law, she was "untouchable" ... cut off from the rest of society, an outcast.

She couldn't marry, or if she was married, her condition was grounds for divorce.

She couldn't go to the temple to worship.

- **where Jairus worked – she wasn't welcome**

According to Leviticus 15, anything or anybody she touched would be considered "unclean". If touched, that person must wash their clothes, take a bath, and would be considered "unclean" until the evening.

She infected everyone and everything she touched.

For 12 long years: 4, 380 DAYS → she lived in isolation. Lived w/ an issue

T For this woman, it was an "issue" of blood.

But the truth is: We all have "issues". If we're honest – we know this to be true...

*look @ your neighbor and say to them "you've got issues!" - nah, just kiddin

* we all have 'em – we may hide 'em, other's can't see 'em – we may not even recognize them ourselves – but we have 'em

→ You may have some unresolved "issues" you brought with you here this morning.

• **Physical issues** – Maybe something the doctors haven't been able to resolve.

• **Financial issues** – Maybe you feel overwhelmed and burdened down.

- **Emotional issues** – hurts or hang-ups that have been aching and short circuiting in life..
 · **Social issues** – Maybe you're dealing with problems with your family, friends.
 · **Spiritual issues** – Maybe you have some things weighing you down –or you're on this quest to finally find the spiritual liberation that you seek and yet your search keeps turning up empty..
Everybody has “issues” ... and, maybe they've been going on for more than 12 years.

Ask yourself: How did this woman find RELIEF from her “issues”?

The question for this woman was not when will I find relief – she hadn't given up hope – for 12 yrs – everyday battling through despair!

→ It wasn't when she'd find relief - but where will it come from?

ILLUST: article run in USA Today – this past April:

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When adults were asked by researchers what they would do if diagnosed with an incurable disease, the percentage who said:

They would pursue treatment at any cost: 52

They would do nothing: 12

They would spend all their savings in pursuit of pleasure: 6

They would try something they ordinarily wouldn't: 5

They would quit their job: 1

They would do none of the above: 22

Tracey Wong Briggs and Suzy Parker, "Response to a Bad Diagnosis," USA Today (4-19-07);

She had tried all kinds of cures, remedy's, procedures, → had exhausted all here resources and options – seen all the doctors, spent all she had...and yet this disease was gaining on her...

You see on THAT DAY → She was seeking in desperation – just like Jairus!

T

Now, remember – Mark 5:24

LARGE CROWD (if it wasn't too awkward I'd make us get up and squish together, most of you are like whew- this guys crazy enough to make us do it...some of you are like man I woke up late, didn't shower yet and you're relieved right now...– frankly – so are we...)

You've been in crowds like this...I'll call it: **the human traffic jams**

→ **you find yourself as a human bumper car**

- Sporting event – where you are left to feel like cattle being herded out – bumping into people you don't know and trying not to be inappropriate...
- Crowded elevator
 - STORY: Oversea's elevator and how small/crowded it was – 4 of us in an elevator made for 1 ½ -- soo tight...close enough you could share a tic-tac if you wanted

And into that crowded scene – she is making her way up behind Jesus...

She's decided in her heart to trust her life – her healing to this man she's heard about...

She forgoes the expectations and regulations and believes that if she just can touch his edge of his cloak she will experience healing...

Mark 5:27-28

Why did she think this? (here's a quick Jewish background lesson)

Here's where you need to go a little deeper and understand the Jewish tradition. In those days, a Jewish man wore two garments. He wore an under garment that would be similar to a man's t-shirt except that it would extend below the knees half way to the ankles. This long sleeve t-shirt was called a tunic or in Hebrew a haluke. A Jewish man would wear this undergarment around the house or in the fields, but never to the Temple or Synagogue or generally out in public.

There was an outer garment that they wore called a cloak. The cloak was a long rectangular piece of cloth generally made of wool. It would lie over your shoulder and extend below the knees and would be fastened with a belt. This passage says that this sick woman pressed through the crowd and touched Jesus' cloak or his tallit. Why would she do that?

The tallit was a rectangle so it had four corners. On each of the four corners, rabbis typically wore tassels called tsitsit. (**seatzy**) They did this to remind themselves to follow the commands of God.

Numbers 15:38-39

"Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel.

You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them ...

As a Jewish rabbi, Jesus probably wore tassels (tsitsits) on the corners of his garment. Many Jews today still wear tassels on their outer garments. These tassels are knotted times to remind Jews of the five books of Moses. The four spaces between these knots represent the letters of God's name, YHWH. The knots along the prayer shawl edges use exactly 613 knotted strings, representing the 613 laws of the Torah.

Okay, you have this outer garment with four corners and tassels hanging down.

The Hebrew word for corner is the word kanaph. The word kanaph had several meanings. The kanaph was a corner, but it was also used to describe a wing. A bird with two wings would be plural version of kanaph which was kanapheem.

Where are we going with this vocabulary lesson? There is a prophecy about the coming Messiah in the Old Testament book of Malachi.

Malachi 4:2

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.

Notice the phrase, "with healing in his *kanaph* ... wings or corner." When a Jewish person would read that verse, they would automatically think that the Messiah would come with healing in his tassels. That's why this woman in the book of Mark pressed through the crowd.

Mark 5:29

Immediately she is healed... (the greek word here: *ginosko* means she experienced a healing within – means: too know experientially!)

And look what happens next:

Mark 5:30-32

- That's a strange question – given the crowd – the circumstance around the crowd
- I'm sure when the Q came out of his mouth the disciples were like – “who hasn't touched you Jesus – I've got a few touches I wasn't expecting...”
- This is a question that gives us an insight into what God is really like
 - Not a silly question – **but a very significant one...**
- Everyone's attention is on where they're going & not what is going on right around them

Jesus notices what everyone else misses!

His awareness toward ONE in the crowd was remarkable –

→AND FRIENDS – IT STILL IS!!!!

→ His attention is uncanny: the bible is filled w/ expressions of God's attention:

Psalm 34:15

Matthew 10:29-31

***Example: (humorous)**

If Jesus were to read the 'where's waldo books' he'd win every time...

(play on the screen with them – 10 seconds)

***God is so dialed in to your life – to mine – it is humbling and encouraging:**

Illust: simple expression of his attentiveness...

Driving home last wk – late 7pm – dark out – we'd lost our taillight cover on our van for the 2nd time – didn't want to go order a new one (cost) or take the (time) to go get one from the junkyard. We'd lost it somewhere on oracle road within a 12 mile stretch – we prayed a simple, short prayer that God would help us find it – to be honest (I ½ meant the prayer – I doubted it would happen) → driving home – dark and suddenly Amy sees it in the median on the other side of the road from where it would have come off...

→ as I bent down to pick it up it was as if God whispered – see, I care, I notice...

Mark 5:32

Jesus keeps seeking her out...

It isn't a glare of rebuke but one of invitation, of release, of rescue...

This woman might have been content with proximity to Jesus – she could have slipped away

She may have been content - just seeking a proximity to Jesus...
 → but He wasn't content with that; he doesn't want us to be within his proximity – he desires our intimacy – to experience a relational connection with him – not to settle just be around him

There were many who were around him that day – but only one in that moment that experienced his renewing touch

I love how the gospel of Luke puts this: in one verse he seizes the moment:

Luke 8:47

Then the woman, seeing that **she could not go unnoticed**, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

Think about her experience - 12 years of suffering w/ more than just one issue – didn't she:
 4, 380 DAYS of neglect, possible accusation, assumption, carrying shame,
 4, 380 DAYS of enduring the label of outcast, unclean
 4, 380 DAYS of all kinds of names

But on this DAY – she is called by a new name: ‘daughter’

- An affectionate term, meaning: chosen and loved by the God of the Universe...she is spoken of as valuable, noticed and accepted!

Mark 5:32-34

- This is beautiful for him to stop and meet w/ her – b/c of her issue and the Jewish Mishnah that added interpretation to the Law – many rabbi's wouldn't even give women the time of day – in order to not become unclean
- BUT Jesus is attentive to her, seeks her out, listens and is approachable → beautiful!!!
- Jesus let's her know it's her FAITH that he responds too
- He uses a phrase of YOUR FAITH HAS MADE YOU WELL (sozo / sodezo) = translated that she not only was made healed and whole from the disease but also put in right standing with God b/c of her faith IN JESUS
- He speaks shalom – peace and wholeness over her...

Q Why did Jesus STOP?

- b/c she was worth stopping for (and so are you)
- b/c she needed him too (and so do you)
- b/c he wanted to hear her story (and he wants to hear yours)
- b/c he wanted to restore her into a loving community – (he wants you to experience that too)

B/C Jesus is always on the lookout for FAITH! HE CAN'T HELP BUT RESPOND TO IT – IT THRILLS HIS HEART WHEN FAITH IN HIM IS ACTIVATED!

Q when did she seek healing/wholeness? For 12 yrs

Q where did she finally find it → by putting her trust in the person of Jesus!

Faith In Him is attractive → it catches His attention & His awareness every time!

T

I want to give you a chance to reflect on this amazing truth – we're going to worship a bit more now and I want to invite you to engage your heart with the ONE who notices YOU. Who wants you to not settle for proximity – but engage him intimately.

Take these next couple songs – then I'd like to share one final thing with you in a moment...

You might be wondering what happened to Jairus' daughter? Well, that's another sermon for another time – but needless to say God's Omnipotence is still in affect – enough power to handle multiple things

T

I want to close with this thought – may it resonate within your heart and life this week:

**Jesus wants to pull us from living a faith on the fringe
– toward a front-n-center faith**

→ there is more life, power, provision and intimacy with a life lived in front of Him and not on the fringe simply looking on...

God is inviting you closer to him...

To Living life in his presence

Daily and intimately connected with Him in relationship

To live life together with ever increasing intimacy

Benediction/Blessing:

May you be caught off guard by the God who stops for you! May you live with a renewed encouragement from his attention! May you heed his invitation to live in a relational 'front -n-center faith journey with him!

May you have his awareness fused within you → to notice and respond to those around you with HIS LOVE!

Go in peace...