

Next week's lesson:

"*The Woman Who Claimed Her Place*"

Mark 7:24-30



Extended addition*

TALKING POINTS

Lesson 2

"The Woman Who Stole Her Healing"

Mark 5:21-34

Focus scripture

Mark 5:34

Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Food for Thought:

What did you "see" of God's nature in last week's lesson of the widow's and her son?

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This study's desire is to not only discover that Jesus sees women, but that we might see the Triune God's nature (toward women, and human kind) as revealed in the Old and New Testaments.

Extended addition Talking Points developed by Julie Zdenek © 2020, this edition 2024.

“Attention is the beginning of devotion.” Mary Oliver

Who do we “see” or not “see”?

SHAME AND HONOR CULTURE

- What do you know about shame/honor cultures in other cultures? How is shame played out?
- What are things people are shamed for in our culture? How is shame played out?
- How about honor, who receives honor in our culture? How is honor played out?
- Do you recall people in your life who were shamed? How did it affect you?

Let's “SEE” who is in our story this week

Read Mark 5:21-24

- Who has “honor” so far in this story?
- Do you think the disciples feel honored, why?

Read Mark 5:24-34

Let's be honest about how this woman really suffered. She had a blood flow that would not stop. The Greek translation leads us to believe it was not menstrual blood, but what would 1st century physicians, writers and translators know of her real condition? It was an endless flow...and she did not have feminine hygiene products to hide her illness. Try working to provide free feminine products for school girls, refugee women, women's prisons, immigrant detainees... Many with the power to rectify this institutional problem don't understand the nature of the flow – that it is uncontrollable. ...this is where shame rears its ugly head. Most likely each of us has a personal story about being in public and desperately needed a feminine product.

Besides her disease, she was closed off from her community. "The honor/shame cultural system is a closed system. Honor can be gained through money, birth to an honorable family, marriage to an honorable family, and giving birth to boys. Losing or never having any of these means losing honor and gaining shame. In this context, even the relationship to God can be part of the closed honor/shame system. Being an important religious figure also conveys honor. God is the source of both fertility and wealth and so becomes a key source of honor." ¹

Read Leviticus 12:2-5

Here is her stigma, right from Jewish law: *her flow of blood was considered unclean and sinful.*

- What other shameful problems might be caused by a continuous blood flow?
- Why didn't she just ask Jesus for healing?
- What makes her actions daring and reckless?
- Why do you think Jesus stopped?
- What can you glean from the disciples' reaction? What might they have been more worried about than some random woman?
- How might the community have reacted, had she remained invisible so no one knew how or by whom she was healed?
- What does he do (by what he says to her) to restore her honor, and save her from more shame from the community? (*What did he call her?*)

IS THIS STORY A BLIP IN THE BIBLE, OR IS THIS GOD'S NATURE?

Read:

1 Sam 2:8

Psalms 71:20-21

- What does God do?

Luke 6:20-22

- How does Jesus reiterate this?

Ephesians 2:1-10

Ephesians 2:11-22

- What does Paul say about those of us who were not of the chosen?

Take some time to tell the stories of God's work in restoring honor to women the Old Testament, found in your insert.

THINKING POINTS:

In what way does this lesson change, or enhance your understanding of God's nature?