

Talking Points *"Attention is the beginning of devotion" -- Mary Oliver*

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" John 14:9

What did we "see" of God's nature last week?

Jesus Sees Women – Session 2

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?
- Do you recall people in your life who were shamed? How did it affect you?
- How about honor, who receives honor in our culture? How is honor played out?

Let's "SEE" who is in our story this week

Mark 5:²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat²¹ to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." ²⁴ So he went with him.

- Who has "honor" so far in this story?
- Do you think the disciples felt honored?

Mark 5:²⁴ And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." ²⁹ Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³² He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

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 it flowed from the same place ...and she did not have feminine hygiene products to hide her illness.

Talking Points *"Attention is the beginning of devotion"* -- Mary Oliver

Here is her stigma, right from Jewish law: *(It was considered unclean and sinful)*

Leviticus 12:2 If a woman conceives and bears a male child, she shall be ceremonially unclean seven days; as at the time of her menstruation, she shall be unclean.

⁴ Her time of blood purification shall be thirty-three days; she shall not touch any holy thing, or come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purification are completed. ⁵ If she bears a female child, she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her menstruation; her time of blood purification shall be sixty-six days.

Leviticus 20: ¹⁸ If a man lies with a woman having her sickness and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her flow and she has laid bare her flow of blood; both of them shall be cut off from their people.

- What are shame and embarrassment over this particular blood flow?
- Why didn't she just ask Jesus for healing?
- Why do you think Jesus stopped?
- What may have happened to her, from the community, if she remained invisible to Jesus and those in procession to Jairus' house?
- What does she need from Jesus to restore her honor, not simply stop the flow of blood?
- What does he do to restore her honor, and save her from more shame from the community? (What did he call her, what did he say?)

The rest of the story: In the meantime, Jairus' daughter dies.

- Who recalls what happens next?
- Why do you think Jesus made this a private healing?
- Who does Jesus honor by allowing their presence?
- Is there any significance that the subject of the healing was a 12 year old girl? Or that it was the number of years the woman had the hemorrhage?

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

Review the **Relevant Scriptures**

"From Shame to Honor" handout.

Talking Points *“Attention is the beginning of devotion” -- Mary Oliver*

