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**TITLE:** Great Faith!

**WRITTEN BY:** Darin Poe

**MAIN SCRIPTURE VERSE OR PASSAGE:** Mark 5:21–34

**IN ONE SENTENCE, WHAT IS IT YOU WANT THE STUDENTS TO HEAR:** We need to have faith in Jesus that all things are possible.

**SERMON MATERIALS NEEDED:** Several small bottles of anointing oil, tissues or paper towels

**OPENING ILLUSTRATION/STORY/OBJECT LESSON:**

*[Describe a time when you were part of a crowd (sporting event, concert, demonstration), or ask students to describe a time when they were a part of a crowd. Where were you? What was it like? Who was with you? Why was there a crowd?]*

When there is a crowd, it usually means something significant is happening. Two teams are playing a game. A band is putting on a show. People have come together to be a part of something great or significant, or to see something great or significant.

Crowds were gathered around Jesus in this story because He was becoming more well-known and they knew significant things happened when Jesus was around. A couple of chapters earlier, Mark 3:7–10 talks about people coming from up to forty miles away, walking to be in the same place as Jesus. The crowd was so large, He had to get in a boat so He wouldn’t be crushed. People heard that He healed the sick and performed miracles, had power over demons, told incredible stories, and preached great sermons. These people wanted to see something great, and some of them needed something great to happen for them—a healing or a deliverance.

Jesus does not disappoint. As Jesus arrived on the shore in our story, the crowd made a path for a Jewish leader who approached Jesus, fell at His feet, and pleaded for Jesus to come and heal his daughter who was dying. Jesus went with the ruler, and the crowd followed. But something else happens before they get to the ruler’s house. In this story we see desperation, determination, and a demonstration of God’s power.

*(Read Mark 5:25–34. Pray over the message, asking God to help everyone have faith that He will do what seems impossible.)*

**POINT 1:** Desperation

The woman who came to Jesus for healing was desperate. She had suffered for twelve years from constant bleeding. She was weak. She had spent all of her money on doctors. Nothing helped. In fact, she was worse. People did not want to be around her. The religious rules declared she was “unclean.” She was not allowed to worship in the temple because of her condition either. She suffered physically, financially, spiritually, and emotionally. Can you imagine being in this condition for twelve years?

This woman was desperate. No one could help her in the way she needed to be helped. No one except for Jesus, which is why she told herself, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.”

**ILLUSTRATION/STORY/QUOTE:**

*(Share a personal story of when you were desperate for something to happen and you needed God to help you.)*

**APPLICATION:**

When we get desperate, we are often willing to do and try anything to find a solution. We need to realize at the beginning of our problem that Jesus can help us. He can do what needs to be done—no matter what it is. Think about a time in your life when you, or someone you know, were facing something that seemed impossible but God came through in an incredible way. Let this memory build your faith and remind you to believe that “with God everything is possible” (Matthew 19:26).

After twelve years, this woman heard about Jesus and all that He was doing. The story doesn’t say how far she had to go to arrive at this point, but nothing was going to hold her back from getting to Jesus. She believed Jesus could help—she had faith that He would heal her. So, she decided to get to Him any way she could.

**POINT 2:** Determination

This woman wasn’t just desperate; she was determined. Remember the crowd that was around Jesus? We don’t know how many people were there that day, but we can assume it was a lot of people. In the very next chapter, we read the story of Jesus miraculously feeding a crowd of thousands (Mark 6:30–44). In verse 44 it tells us, “A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed.” Five thousand men, plus their families. We could easily say there were over ten thousand people in that crowd!

The only thing this woman kept telling herself was, “If I can just touch His robe, I will be healed” (Mark 5:28). We don’t know what she thought when she first arrived and saw potentially thousands of people crowding around Jesus. We don’t know, if at any point, she thought, “*I’ll never get to Jesus. There are just too many people.”* What we do know, though, is that she thought and believed that if she could get to Jesus, she would be healed. She would be restored. She could be around family and friends. She could worship at the temple again. With these things in mind, she made her way through the crowd of people. The crowd probably didn’t make a path for her to get to Jesus; it’s possible they didn’t even notice her. Many of them may have been determined to get to Jesus too because they needed or wanted Him to do something for them. But this woman was determined; she fought through the people to get close to Jesus, and her determination paid off. She made it within reach of Jesus.

**ILLUSTRATION/STORY/QUOTE:**

“The little country schoolhouse was heated by an old-fashioned, pot-bellied coal stove. A eight-year-old boy named Glenn Cunningham had the job of coming to school early each day so that he could use kerosene to start the fire and warm the room before his teacher and his classmates arrived. One cold morning, someone mistakenly filled the kerosene container with gasoline, and disaster struck.

The class and teacher arrived to find the schoolhouse engulfed in flames. Terrified on realizing that Glenn was inside, they rushed in and managed to drag the unconscious little boy out of the flaming building, more dead than alive. He had major burns over the lower half of his body and was taken to a nearby county hospital.

From his bed, the dreadfully burned, semiconscious little boy faintly heard the doctor talking to his mother. The doctor told his mother that her son would surely die, which was for the best, really for the terrible fire had devastated the lower half of his body.

But the brave boy didn’t want to die. Glenn made up his mind that he would survive. And somehow, to the amazement of the physician, he did survive. Yet when the mortal danger was past, he again heard the doctor and his mother speaking quietly. The mother was told that since the fire had destroyed so much flesh in the lower part of his body, it would almost be better if he had died, since he was doomed to be a lifetime cripple with no use at all of his lower limbs. His mother refused to let the doctors amputate.

Once more, this brave little boy made up his mind. He would not be a cripple. He would walk. But unfortunately from the waist down, Glenn had no motor ability. His thin, scarred legs just dangled there, all but lifeless.

Ultimately Glenn was released from the hospital. Every day, his mother and father would massage his little legs, but there was no feeling, no control, nothing. Yet Glenn’s determination that he would walk was as strong as ever.

When he wasn’t in bed, he was confined to a wheelchair. One sunny day, his mother wheeled him out into the yard to get some fresh air. This day, instead of sitting there, he threw himself from the chair. Glenn pulled himself across the grass, dragging his legs behind him.

He worked his way to the white picket fence bordering their lot. With great effort, he raised himself up on the fence. Then, stake by stake, he began dragging himself along the fence, resolved that he would walk. He started to do this every day until he wore a smooth path all around the yard beside the fence. There was nothing he wanted more than to develop life in those legs.

Ultimately through his daily massages, Glenn’s iron persistence, and his resolute determination, he did develop the ability first to stand up, then to walk haltingly with help, then to walk by himself, and then, miraculously, to run.

Glenn began to run to school. He ran for the sheer joy of running and being able to run. He ran everywhere that he could. The people in his town would often see him run by on his way to who knows where and smile. Later in college, Glenn made the track team where his tremendous determination paid off. He eventually received the nickname the “Kansas Flyer.”

In February 1934, in New York City’s famed Madison Square Garden, this young man who was not expected to survive, who would surely never walk, who could never hope to run – this determined young man, Dr. Glenn Cunningham, ran the mile in four minutes and eight seconds, the world’s fastest indoor mile for that time! Later that same year in a prestigious outdoor track meet, he shaved another second off his record to run the world’s fastest mile to that time. (<http://impactyourworldng.org/index.php/2018/02/05/a-story-of-determination-glenn-cunningham-by-burt-dubin/>).

**APPLICATION:**

The sick woman was determined to fight through the crowds and get to Jesus because she wanted to be healed. Glenn Cunningham was determined to live, walk, and then run again because it brought him joy.

Is there anything you are desperate for? What would you be willing to do to make it happen? Are you determined to actually make it happen? To be determined is to make a firm decision and be resolved not to change it. You say what you want to do, you say you are going to do, and you do it, no matter if anything gets in the way.

Because the woman was determined, she found herself within reach of Jesus. She had been telling herself, “If I can just touch His robe, I will be healed.” So, what does she do when she found herself where she wanted to be? Give up? Chicken out? Turn around and decide she can live with this condition the rest of her life, no matter how long that is? No! She came up behind Jesus, reached out, and touched His robe.

**POINT 3:** Demonstration

BOOM! The Bible says, “Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition” (Mark 5:29). The healing power of Jesus was demonstrated for her to experience. Her faith told her it could happen, and it did. She believe she could be healed if she just touched His robe. She did. She was. But is this the end of the story? Not yet.

Jesus realized that healing power had gone out from Him. He turned around and asked, “Who touched my robe?” His disciples thought that was a crazy question. There was a massive crowd around Him, maybe hundreds of people reaching out to touch Him. But Jesus wanted to see who this specific person was. The woman, realizing what happened, approached Jesus again. The Bible says she was frightened and trembling. She came to Jesus, fell at His feet, and admitted to Him what she had done. It’s unclear what she expected at this point, but her life was changed. How do we know? Jesus said, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over” (Mark 5:34).

It was her faith, her belief that Jesus could do what she had heard about. She believed if He could perform those miracles for other people, He could do something for her. Jesus could heal her, and He did—because of her faith.

**ILLUSTRATION/STORY/QUOTE:**

*(Relate a story of a supernatural healing or other miracle. Hopefully it can be a personal story of God’s power in your life or the life of someone you know. If you have not experienced something personally, you may need to ask your pastor for a story like this.)*

**CLOSING CHALLENGE/APPLICATION:**

This woman had heard about Jesus healing the sick. She was sick and believed if He could heal those people, He could heal her. In fact, she believed if she could just touch His robe, she would be healed. She did and she was.

Now that you have heard this story, what do you believe? What do you have faith for? Is there something going on in your life that you need healing for?

*[Read James 5:13–18.]*

This is a whole sermon in itself, but this passage says if you’re sick, you should let people pray for you and anoint you with oil. If the prayer is offered in faith, the sick will be healed. Verse 16 says, “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

**ALTAR RESPONSE:**

We have some people who have prepared themselves and prayed. They are full of faith and are believing for miracles to happen in your life today. These leaders are ready for you to come to the front. They will put some oil on their finger and touch your forehead (anointing you with oil), and then pray that God will work supernaturally in your life. Share with them what you need prayer for, then they will anoint you with oil and pray a prayer of faith, believing for a miracle today. If you need something from God, come to the front right now.

**POWERPOINT SLIDES**

Slide 1 – Great Faith!

Slide 2 – Mark 5:21–34

Slide 3 – Desperation

Slide 4 – Matthew 19:26

Slide 5 – Determination

Slide 6 – Mark 5:28

Slide 7 – Demonstratiion

Slide 8 – Mark 5:29

Slide 9 – Mark 5:34

Slide 10 – James 5:13–18

**OUTLINE TEMPLATE**

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* Mark 5:28
* The woman believed that if she could get to Jesus, she would be healed.
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