

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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DO WE HAVE FAITH TO TOUCH THE CLOAK?

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

An Excerpt From Today's Responsorial Psalm and Gospel

Excerpts from Psalm 91

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, Say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

For he will rescue you from the snare of the fowler, from the destroying pestilence. With his pinions he will cover you, and under his wings you shall take refuge.

Because he clings to me, I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in distress.

PSALM 91:1-4,14-15

Excerpt from the Gospel

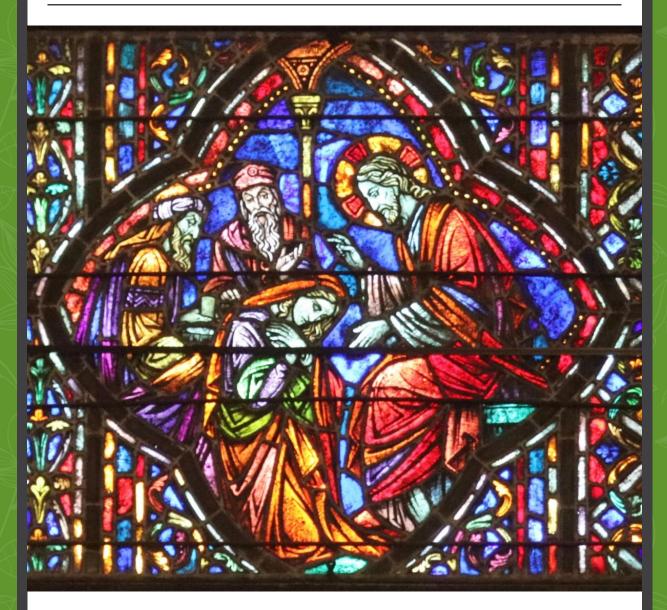
A woman suffering hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and

touched the tassel on his cloak. She said to herself, "If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured." Jesus turned around and saw her, and said, "Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you." And from that hour the woman was cured.

MATTHEW 9:18-26

Reflection

The hemorrhaging woman clearly witnesses to the faith she has in Jesus to heal. She doesn't even need Jesus to lay hands on her or pray over her; she simply needs to touch his cloak. Her faith stops me in my tracks! It challenges me to trust in the God with my whole being and act from this deep, embedded trust that I proclaim. This woman provided a powerful witness to those who were present; and she provides this same powerful witness to each of us today.



A section of stained glass in the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, OH
Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

To Whom Shall I Place My Trust

O woman of great faith, you sought Jesus in the midst of your twelve-year misery, may I gain strength from your strength, hope from your hope, and trust from your trust.

You sought out Jesus, knowing deep within yourself of his healing powers, and you worried not what others thought because your faith overcame any internal resistance.

May we, who attest to being followers of Christ Jesus, be as courageous as the hemorrhaging woman; for all things are possible through the Lord, as we place our trust in God.

For Pondering

- The hemorrhaging woman trusted that only by touching Jesus' cloak, she would be healed. Recall a time when you experienced God's healing presence in your life in body, mind, or spirit. What stirs within you as you recall this poignant moment?
- Psalm 91 is rich in evoking within us feelings of comfort, security, hope, and shelter. Slowly pray this psalm and note the words that seem to echo within you. Stay with these words a moment and then allow them to gently guide you this day.

For Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord:
you are our refuge and fortress, our God, in whom we trust.
We pray for all those in need of healing,
especially those who are long-suffering
in their illnesses and chronic conditions.
We lift them up to you in faith, knowing the power of your healing Spirit.
Amen.

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