

Title: “Pursuing His Presence”

Text: Mark 5:21-34 NIV

Proposition: Finding the fullness of God’s presence requires pressing and pursuing Him relentlessly

Purpose: Produce a hunger to touch the Lord and passionately pursue Him

Event: Pinecroft Baptist Church – Senior Pastor

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21 “When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.

22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet.

23 He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.”

24 So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him.

25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.

26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.

27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,

28 because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.”

29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

31 “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”

32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.

33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Mark 5:21-34 NIV

I. Introduction: Eternal Life = Everlasting Communion

Everyone wants to feel important. Everyone wants to feel worthy. Everyone wants to be the object of their closest friends’ affection. It’s the same way with Jesus.

Think about it. The way the earth began was a nursery. It was a place where God’s creation, Mankind, could have uninterrupted access to His love. It was a place where the Holy Spirit and the Voice of God were intimately known by Adam and Eve. Eden, the pinnacle of all of the history of

creation, was a space where mankind and God would be in constant contact. It's in God's heart to have you that close again.

I want you to have a different view of what it means to have “eternal life.” If we believe that eternal life is what Eden had. If we also believe that life is Jesus and Jesus is life, then it makes sense to see the term “eternal life” much deeper. It really means to have “eternal Jesus.” It means to have uninterrupted access and relationship and closeness to the Lord. Eternal life means eternal communion. It means to have uninterrupted intimacy with the Lord. Think of that as we consider this very familiar passage from this fresh perspective:

*16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*
John 3:16-17 NKJV

Additional passages where “eternal life” is connected to the person, identity, and presence of Jesus.

*“And I give them **eternal life**, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”*
John 10:28 NKJV

*“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have **eternal life**; and these are they which testify of Me.”*
John 5:39 NKJV

*1 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—
2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—
3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”*
1 John 1:1-3 NKJV

*“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and **eternal life**.”*
1 John 5:20 NKJV

Eternal life is uninterrupted time with Jesus. It has endless duration, and it is without intermission and interruption. This is the yearning of our hearts, to be with Him, to be where Life is. Until we get to heaven, we will be unsatisfied. But we must have hope in the taste of heaven that is available to us. We can see Him in greater detail. We can have true and enduring encounters with His lovely heart. We can be transformed and renewed and undone in His glorious presence. We can be healed and set free. We can become more like Him. We can just be with Him and receive His unfailing love. But to receive this requires work. It requires pursuit. And it requires courting the Lord Jesus, just like we court our spouse or significant other. We have to leave our comfort zone and pursue Him at any cost. And this is what He calls FAITH.

II. Encounters With Jesus Require Desperate Pursuit

In our anchor scripture for the morning, we see a woman with an issue. The issue was she was not experiencing the benefit of health. She was bleeding out and no one could heal her. She was miserable and lonely and outcast. She was desperate. The world had given her pain. And her release would only come from another world.

The woman heard about Jesus. She saw Jesus. She likely heard Him teach and watched Him work miracles. But that wasn't good enough. She wanted to be close. She wanted to experience His love for herself. She had to get past everything and everyone that was standing between her and touching the Lord. She was relentlessly pursuing an encounter with the love of God. She wanted ALL THAT JESUS HAD FOR HER, not just what she had already seen. She knew there was more He could do in her. She had to be close to Him. She believed that inside of Him was everything that she needed.

27 *“When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.
28 For she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.”*
Mark 5:27-28 NKJV

You can almost taste her desperate need. You can almost taste her desperate pursuit. You can imagine her crawling, pushing, shoving, scratching, whatever it took to get to Jesus. SHE HAD TO TOUCH HIM. She had to get more than just the nominal or conventional experience. His voice wasn't enough. She wanted Him to encounter her. And He wanted to encounter her too.

Jesus wants to affirm His relationship with you. He wants to solidify your faith. He wants you to know WHOSE YOU ARE. When Jesus felt the love come out of Him, He didn't just keep going. He wanted the RELATIONSHIP. He wanted to see the woman and He wanted her to know that she was seen. When He spoke to her, He called her “daughter.” And He commended her for her faith:

30 *At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”*
31 *“You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”*
32 *But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.*
33 *Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.*
34 *He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”*
Mark 5:30-34 NKJV

It's not enough to be healed. Jesus wants you to have Him. He wants you to have a divine encounter. He wants you to see Him and He wants to see you. He wants you to see how He sees you. He wants to impart love to you, not just a manifestation of His love. He doesn't want you to just have evidence. He wants you to have a knowledge and acquaintance with His heart. He's more interested in your heart being in His heart, than you getting the outward benefits. He wants to heal your heart and minister there, more than He wants to heal your body! But if healing your body is what it takes to bring you to His feet, He will bring you to that point of desperation. He loves you!

III. True Faith Is A Desperate Desire To Be With Jesus

What's so interesting is the Lord connects her pursuit with her faith. Did she have faith, before she determined to touch Him? Absolutely. Did faith bring her to the doorstep of healing? Yes. Did her faith bring her close to Jesus? Yes. But her desperation ministered to Jesus. It blessed Him. It got His attention. It was unusual.

Do you want the kind of faith that makes the Lord stop and take notice? Do you want the kind of relationship with Jesus, that is uncommon? Do you want to bless Him in an uncommon way?

Have you ever considered how scripture repeatedly shows how pursuit is what gets us to the closest and most intimate moments with Jesus? Sure, the Lord can sovereignly show up when He wants. But, more than likely, your next transformational encounter with Jesus will require grit, perseverance, and dedication.

*5 "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.
6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*

Hebrews 11:5-6 NKJV

Over and over and over again we see those who experienced unusual depths of relationship with Jesus and their connection with Him being born out of a pursuit for the Lord. David built his own tabernacle and sacrificed thousands of animals before the Lord in order to please Him before bringing the Ark into the temple. Moses pursued the Lord daily by going into the tabernacle again and again. He begged the Lord when he said, "show me your glory."

Joshua went in with Moses and didn't come out when Moses departed. Jesus Himself fasted 40 days and 40 nights, going without food or water in order to be in communion with the Father as He

was tested by the devil. He divested of any of His “rights” to live according to His own will or the will of His carnal nature. He sought perfect harmony and nearness with the Father. Jesus would go to the Mount of Olives to pray from a vantage point where He could also see the Temple, His “Father’s House.” He couldn’t be in Heaven with the Father, but He sought closeness with Him just the same.

Mountains represent worship. And mountains require you to CLIMB. There’s effort you expend to climb a mountain. It is arduous and requires a consistent pursuit of the summit. When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, all the crowd of thousands had to climb up to get to Him. The Temple is on a mountain in Jerusalem and it’s where the Lord asked that every person come see Him at least a few times a year. They all had to climb.

The woman in our focus story had to press to get to Jesus. She had to press through the discrimination of the day that said she deserved to be outcast and sent out of the community due to her bleeding. Not to mention she was a woman, and many would say she had no right to talk to Jesus. But she didn’t care as much about that as she did about MEETING JESUS. How badly do you want to meet Jesus? Does it move you that you haven’t had an encounter lately or an encounter at all? Where is your heart?

*16 Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,
17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’
18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’
19 And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’
20 Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’
21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’
22 And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’
23 Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’
24 For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ”*

Leaving All to Follow Christ

25 *“Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them,*

26 *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

27 *And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”*

Luke 14:16-24 NKJV

34 *“Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?*

35 *It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”*

Luke 14:34-35 NKJV

23 *“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross ^[4] daily, and follow Me.*

24 *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.*

25 *For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?*

26 *For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.*

27 *But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God.”*

Jesus Transfigured on the Mount

28 *Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.*

29 *As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.*

30 *And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah,*

31 *who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.*

32 *But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.”*

Luke 9:23-32 NKJV

Are you asleep? Are you tranquilized by the affections for this world? You’re missing out on heaven on earth. You are missing your reward for diligent pursuit. You are missing out on eternal life available to you NOW.

IV. Conclusion: Make Jesus Your Only Treasure

29 *“And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind.*

30 *For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.*

31 *But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.*

32 *“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*
33 *Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a*
treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.
34 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant

35 *“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning;*
36 *and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding,*
that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.
37 *Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say*
to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.”

Luke 12:29-37 NKJV

I urge you to see Jesus for His eternal and infinite value. He is your treasure. And it’s your birthright to get your reward!

¹⁶*“lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.*
¹⁷*For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.”*

Hebrews 12:16-17 NKJV

Don’t sell your birthright for anything here on earth! Burn for Jesus! He is your everlasting reward RIGHT NOW. Don’t allow any idol to steal your heart. Crucify your carnal nature and seek the Kingdom that is unseen. Seek the heart of the Savior. See your Lover for who He is. To seek His glory is to seek His VALUE. Glory is intricately connected to a WEIGHT. If you want to see His glory, you are seeking to know His value in a deeper way. Just as you spend your money on other possessions, spend your ENTIRE LIFE on Jesus!

55 *“Ho! Everyone who thirsts,*
Come to the waters;
And you who have no money,
Come, buy and eat.
Yes, come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without price.
2 *Why do you spend money for what is not bread,*
And your wages for what does not satisfy?

*Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,
And let your soul delight itself in abundance.
3 Incline your ear, and come to Me.
Hear, and your soul shall live;
And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—
The sure mercies of David.”*

Isaiah 55:1-3 NKJV