

## A MEANINGFUL ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

If we will pursue after Jesus in faith we can have meaningful, life-impacting experiences with Him.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ In Mark 5:25-34, we are introduced to a woman with a persistent hemorrhage (or in KJV, "an issue of blood").
- ❖ We do not know much about this woman – not her name or where she came from. We are not told her family situation or how old she was.
- ❖ We *do* know she had a need – the hemorrhage – and that the doctors of her time could not help her.
- ❖ And we know that social status, financial position, family connections or circle of friends are not prerequisites to a meaningful encounter with Jesus.
- ❖ A meaningful encounter with Jesus can be defined as an experience that is life-impacting; recognized both the by individual seeking Jesus and by Jesus Himself.
- ❖ In order to have a meaningful encounter with Jesus, two conditions must be present:
  - i. A reason to pursue after Jesus. This is usually motivated by some type of need, whether perceived or real.
  - ii. The belief that Jesus can provide some type of help. In other words, faith.
- ❖ Mark 5:27 indicates that the afflicted woman heard about Jesus, and that faith propelled her to pursue a meaningful encounter with Him.
- ❖ Faith is defined as having complete confidence or complete trust in someone or something.
- ❖ Faith comes by hearing the word of God or hearing about God (see Romans 10:17).
- ❖ This woman was at a point of desperation, and her desperation informed the focus of her pursuit.
- ❖ She pressed forward, navigating the obstacles in her way, fighting against the crowd that was pressing up against Jesus, in order to encounter Him.
- ❖ Twelve years of continuous bleeding must have weakened her physically; still, she pushed past the challenges that faced her, pursuing after Jesus.
- ❖ Her faith fueled her drive for experiencing Jesus.
- ❖ Sometimes it is in moments of desperation that our need for Jesus comes becomes clearer for us.
- ❖ When we tap into our faith and allow it to propel us forward, no obstacle can stop us from having meaningful encounters with Jesus (see Mark 9:23).
- ❖ Through her faith, the woman in Mark 5 was able to overcome the obstacles facing her and to experience Jesus. Because of this, her life was forever changed.

### KEY SCRIPTURE: Mark 5:25-34

- ❖ Jacob had an experience similar to this woman's. He was facing the potential consequences of having swindled the blessing of the firstborn and the lineage of promise away from his older brother, Esau.
- ❖ Jacob's need for deliverance and his faith in Jehovah propelled him to wrestle with God, determined to receive help and a blessing.
- ❖ This experience resulted in an encounter with God that forever changed Jacob's life.
- ❖ The impact of Jacob's this encounter was formalized by the changing of his name from 'Jacob' to 'Israel' to indicate that he would no longer be identified as a deceiver, but rather as someone who has power with God.
- ❖ Meaningful encounters with Jesus are available with all of us – regardless of our social status, financial position, family connections or circle of friends.
- ❖ All we require is a desire to pursue after Jesus and the faith to believe that if we pursue after Him, we will encounter Him in a meaningful way.
- ❖ With this understanding, let's all actively and continuously pursue meaningful encounters with Jesus.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Why do you think the Bible doesn't give any details about the background of the woman with the hemorrhaging issue?
2. In your opinion, how did hearing about Jesus impact the faith of the woman mentioned in Mark 5? In light of this, meditate on the benefits of witnessing to others.
3. List challenges that people encounter that could potentially hinder them from having a meaningful encounter with Jesus.
4. What does having a meaningful encounter with Jesus mean to you?

### Prayer Time

Lord, please help me to pursue after You by faith, so that I can have life-impacting encounters with You.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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*Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline*

Start-up: Ponder and identify individuals who have greatly impacted your life. What were the circumstances of your interaction(s)?