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## Matthew 9:22

(22) But Jesus turned; and seeing the woman, He said to her, "Be of good courage, daughter; your faith has made you whole." And from that hour the woman was healed.

### Mark 5:30-34

(30) Now Jesus knew immediately within Himself *that* power had gone out of Him; *and* turning in the crowd, He said, "Who touched My garments?" (31) But His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing around You, and You ask, 'Who touched Me?' " (32) Then He looked around to see who had done this. (33) And the woman, frightened and trembling, knowing what had been done in her, came and fell down before Him, and told Him all the truth. (34) Then He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has cured you. Go in peace, and be whole from your scourge."

# **Luke 8:45-48**

(45) And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" And as everyone began to deny it, Peter and those with Him said, "Master, the multitudes are thronging and pressing You, and You ask, 'Who touched Me?' " (46) But Jesus said, "Someone touched Me, because I know that power went out from Me." (47) Then the woman, seeing that her act was not concealed, came trembling; and after falling down in front of Him before all the people, she declared for what cause she had touched Him, and how she had immediately been healed. (48) And He said to her, "Be of good courage, daughter; your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

Jesus is aware of this woman's suffering and of her <u>faith</u> from the moment she touches Him, feeling power leave Him. He asks, "Who touched Me?" to glorify <u>God</u> by bringing this <u>healing</u> out into the open, which also identifies Him as the Healer. Although He puts the woman on the spot to confess openly what she had done, He encourages her by

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commending her faith. Jesus is thrilled to find faith in this Galilean crowd, since, while most in the crowd thronged Him outwardly, she connected with Him inwardly through her faith. His tender confirmation that her healing was permanent encouraged many, and the revelation that He is the One Healer who had truly made her well produced a tremendous witness.

Jesus says that her faith had made her whole, but faith has no actual healing power. Faith is a required *conduit* through which healing flows. The same holds true in our spiritual healing: "We believe [have faith] that through the <u>grace</u> of our Lord <u>Jesus Christ</u> we shall be saved" (Acts 15:11).

His command, "Go in <u>peace</u>!" (<u>Mark 5:34</u>; <u>Luke 8:48</u>), literally means "Go *into* peace." In other words, Jesus is instructing her to be thankful for her body's healing, but as she moved forward, she would enter into the peace that He had come to impart to all those who trusted in Him.

The restoration of an individual from <u>sin</u> to spiritual health parallels this woman's physical healing. In the same way, sinners cannot purchase the healing of their sinfulness. Christ alone can deal with our corrupt condition and fully and instantaneously restore us by His sacrificial death. Just as this woman's healing is freely given in response to her faith, so does God extend grace to those who believe Him.

Martin G. Collins

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