

TEXT Mark 5:24-34

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Luke 18:1-8; Ephesians 6:18; Hebrews 12:1

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to use the example of the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment to illustrate that through perseverance we gain the blessings and benefits God has for us.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER He that endureth to the end shall be saved. — Matthew 10:22

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. — Galatians 6:9

ANSWER TITLE: **Sticking With It!**

SEARCH TITLE: **Woman Who Touched the Hem of His Garment**

Reference Information

At the time of this incident, Jesus was well known in the villages around Galilee. He had just been across the Sea of Galilee to the area called Decapolis and had healed a demoniac. He was asked by the people of that country to depart from their coasts. How it must have grieved the Lord, but He was gladly received upon His return to the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Decapolis was a region east of Jordan; a league of ten cities. People still dwell in the cliff tombs around Gadara where the demoniac was healed.

According to the Law of Moses, every Jewish man was

supposed to wear a fringe or tassel at each of the four corners of his tallith, the rectangular or square outer garment worn over the upper part of the body. Two fringes hung at the bottom of the cloak, and two hung over the shoulders where the cloak folded over him. The woman probably touched one of these fringes of Jesus' cloak at He passed through the crowd.

The Talmud says physicians had at least 11 remedies for chronic hemorrhage, and the woman had evidently tried them all, but not one worked. She tried to be healed secretly by touching Jesus' cloak, but He wanted her to tell her story publicly.

YOUR OPENER

Woman Who Touched the Hem of His Garment

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KEY VERSE: Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

— Galatians 6:9

RESPONSES

1. The press (or crowd of people) hindered her in reaching Jesus, but her persistence resulted in her healing. Allow some time for your class to discuss the second part of the question. Some of the obstacles mentioned might be: negative pressure from family or peers, lack of faith, and slacking off.

2. With such a large crowd of people around Him, even Jesus' disciples were surprised by His question. But the woman knew what had happened to her and gave her first public testimony, at that time. Thus, many witnessed what Jesus had done because of her faith and perseverance. This incident lets us know that no act of our faith will pass unnoticed by Jesus.

3. They removed a portion of the roof to put him down before Jesus. This demonstrates to the students that external obstacles may be in the way. Discuss what some of these could be in their daily lives. It should be brought out that as they overcome these obstacles, they can be assured of spiritual victory.

The woman mentioned in our lesson exhibited perseverance and determination. The crowd that surrounded Jesus would have been an obstacle to a well person; how much more to one weakened by illness! She did not expect Jesus to lay hands on her, speak to her, or any such thing. She simply believed that she would be healed if she could just touch the hem of His garment, and because of her persistence she was healed.

1. What obstacles did the woman face which might have discouraged her perseverance, and what were the results of her determination to reach the Lord? What obstacles may appear when we desire something from God?

2. Take special note of Jesus' question to the crowd (verse 30) and his reply to the woman (verse 34). How does this incident encourage us?

3. Four men carried a man who was sick with the palsy to a place where Jesus was speaking. How did they demonstrate their perseverance in bringing this man to the Lord? See Mark 2:3,4.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. How did Jacob show perseverance and what did the angel tell him? See Genesis 32:28.

5. Jesus told the Jews that believed on Him that they should “continue in my word.” Explain what you think is meant by this phrase. See John 8:31.

6. What are some areas in our daily Christian lives where we may need to practice perseverance?

7. We equate conversion with being “saved.” Use Matthew 10:22 to find when we are really saved.

8. There is a goal—something to be obtained through perseverance. Look up Revelation 3:11. What things should we “hold fast” in order to retain our crown?

4. Jacob wrestled with the angel for the blessing he desired. Help your class see the victories that are won by “holding on” in prayer. Discuss the meaning of the phrase, “praying through,” a phrase often used in testimony.

5. The students will recognize the need of “continuing in the Word” to be one of His. The point should be made that before they can “continue,” they must have a start. By continuing they prove to those observing their Christian life that they truly are followers of Christ. How does this apply to our lives today? Encourage your class to support their conclusions with specific illustrations.

6. Allow time for students to give examples. Some suggestions may include: in our prayer life, in study of God’s Word, in faithful church attendance, in faithful performance of the duties given us in God’s work, in giving the Lord our tithes, and in Christian witnessing.

7. The students should know that to be saved one must continue, or endure to the end.

8. Allow time for your students to discuss this. After they have brought out the fact that they should treasure and guard the benefits and blessings God has given them, ask them to name some specific ways this can be done. Point out that their greatest benefit is gaining Heaven—certainly a goal worth persevering for.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What does it mean to persevere?

By persevering, what did the woman with the illness gain?

Sometimes when we ask for something from the Lord He does not answer us right away. What must we have in our hearts that will keep us waiting for that answer?

Why are we likely to limit God?

Why is perseverance usually easier in the physical world?

From the ANSWER story what quality did Kevin have that was also portrayed by the woman in our Bible story? Explain.

What were some of the physical limitations this woman faced that could have hindered her obtaining what she needed?

Think of something that is needed in your life or the life of someone close to you and what might stand in the way. How might these hindrances be overcome?

What might we learn from the fact that the woman in our lesson had exhausted every means to obtain healing before she came to Jesus? Could Jesus have healed her before she spent all that time and money? If so, why not come to Jesus first? Is there any use going to God if we have already waited until our case appears hopeless?

Will perseverance without faith gain anything from God? Explain.

THINGS TO DO

Even animals and insects have perseverance. Show what perseverance is by using examples (pictures would help) such as a spider weaving its web, or a beaver building a dam. Ask the students to give other examples.

Share an experience in your life which is an example how God rewards those who wait upon Him.

Cut out some paper hearts and have students write on one side anything they have been praying for and are waiting for the Lord to answer, and on the other side write "I will persevere because I believe God will answer." Make a mobile out of them.

Bring an intricate piece of needle work, a detailed painting or model to class. Discuss the fact that perseverance

is needed to complete the project, but the end result will justify the time spent. Just so, persevering in prayer will bring results.

A simple object to use in illustrating perseverance would be a Rubik cube or similar puzzle.

Examples to illustrate trying until you succeed might include threading a needle or opening a stuck jar lid.

Print PRAYER on heavy paper. Have students add a phrase about perseverance. Example:

- P — Persevering in prayer
- R — Revealing to God the problem
- A — Accepting help and direction
- Y — Yielding self
- E — Effort
- R — Result: Receiving the blessing

Bring a pay check to class. Explain that a pay check is the reward for faithfully applying oneself to a job. Liken the rewards for earthly effort to the rewards we can receive by persevering in seeking the Lord.

Answers for ANSWER


How Should We Pray?

The code on the tag will help you find out what this verse says about being persistent. Remember, each number represents a letter.


A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Y	Z						
		25	26				

P R A Y I N G always with all prayer and
S U P P L I C A T I O N in the **S P I R I T**,
 and **W A T C H I N G** thereunto with all
P E R S E V E R A N C E and supplication for
 all saints.

E P H E S I A N S 6:18



Supplication is to ask humbly.



Perseverance is to keep on keeping on.