

What Makes a Great Church?

Faith! It's Instrumental!

"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 5:25-34

Introduction:

*Does my faith remove my mountains, or
Do my mountains remove my faith?*

- Faith changes me, it doesn't change God.
- Faith stirs us to action, which leads us to God.

1. The Determination of Faith.

"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- Mark 5:25,26

But faith alone is not sufficient.

2. The Direction of Faith.

"When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind Him..." - Mark 5:27a

1. Her faith in others had become shattered.
2. Her faith in her resources had subsided.
3. Her faith in time had ceased.

But faith that brings us to Jesus is not sufficient.

3. The Decision of Faith.

"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." - Mark 5:27-29

The Formation of Faith:

1. Faith begins with knowledge. "...after hearing..."
2. Faith grows with decision. "...she thought..."

But faith that brings us to Jesus and causes a positive response is not sufficient.

4. The Declaration of Faith.

"At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from Him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, 'Who touched my clothes?'"

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Jesus wanted her to declare her faith because it was...

1. Ignorant faith.
2. Secret faith.

Faith that brings us to Jesus, and causes a positive response, that is publicly declared, is sufficient!

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