

August 25, 2024

Nothing Is Changing . . . I'm Stuck! (Luke 8:40-48 p 833)

Jesus can lift you out of "being stuck."

Hook – The Story I'm Telling Myself: Nothing Is Changing . . . I'm Stuck!

- Stuck: Being stuck at the airport. Flight is delayed for hours, hours, or your connecting flight is cancelled and you get to spend the night, good airlines give a voucher for nice hotel – but then have to be at the airport and 6:00am the next morning so you get 4 hours of sleep.
- Stuck in traffic - roadwork, or been a wreck, travelling on interstate in LA and it starts snowing – what? Close the Grapevine, high desert, and your family is stuck in the car for 6 hours – that's FUN!
- ***Photo:** Well if this wheel isn't going anywhere I'm just going to enjoy it!
- Maybe it's your job, performing the same tasks day after day, not seeing progress, your goals and dreams, are not progressing fast enough, you feel stuck.
- **Photo:** Hamster meme – "This wheel doesn't go anywhere." You're stuck!



- Nothing is changing . . . I'm stuck here.
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Story: When I was 11 my brothers (8 and 5) and I were outside running around. We had a nice size mulberry tree in our big country back yard. That spring afternoon we were climbing the tree. All the sudden I noticed my younger brother wasn't in the tree. 10 feet away mulberry tree was a 12 ft high grill with a chimney. My 5 yr old brother climbed on top of the chimney and somehow stepped into the chimney. From the tree, all I could see Eric's head sticking out of the chimney. He's not saying a word. I jump out of the tree, "MOM, come quick!!" Mom comes out to assess the situation and says, "Yes, he's stuck. "We will have to call the fire department to get him out."

- Has there been a time in your life when you realized you were stuck and nothing seemed to be changing?
- **Story: I can relate.** I've had that experience. And the worst part – I had no control over it. Migraine story

*How can you have faith when you don't see change?

*Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

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- Luke 8:40 Up close look at woman who has every reason to feel she is stuck.
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PRAYER

Luke 8:40

On the other side of **the lake the crowds** welcomed Jesus, because they had been waiting for him. ⁴¹ Then a man named Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come home with him. ⁴² His only daughter, who was about twelve years old, was dying.

As Jesus went with him, he was **surrounded by the crowds** (pressing in, crushing) ⁴³ A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding, and she could find no cure. ⁴⁴ Coming up behind Jesus, she touched the fringe of his robe. Immediately, the bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵ "Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

Everyone denied it, and Peter said, "Master, this whole crowd is pressing up against you."

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me." ⁴⁷ When the woman realized that she could not stay hidden, she began to tremble and fell to her knees in front of him. The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched him and that she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸ "Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

Context: This is a crowd wanting to see Jesus up close and personal. Imagine Dwayne Johnson, the Rock is coming to downtown Modesto. Stops at In Shape to work out and then walks to the Farmer's Market for fresh produce for lunch. People follow him wherever he goes,

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hoping to get close enough for a brief hello, autograph, word of inspiration. Might be some pushing and shoving for better glimpse?

- The crowd in Luke 8, they've heard the reports of Jesus healings, including the woman who's has the condition of hemorrhaging.
- **Unclean**
- For 12 years she's waited for some bit of improvement. She's sick of being sick. By Jewish law she is constantly "unclean" because of her bleeding.
- Lev 15:25 (p 98)
 - o Women "unclean" during their monthly cycle.
 - o Whatever they touch becomes unclean.
 - o With loss of blood she is not allowed to enter the temple the place of worship or possibly any gathering. For 12 years she misses family celebrations, and worship in the temple. But there's more.
 - o When she's on the street or at the market, people social distance themselves from her for 12 years. On this day filled with desperate need for change . . .
 - o That was the life of this woman – she lived in isolation as much as possible to avoid the shame of being in public.
 - o Staying in seclusion was safe
 - o There are no solutions. She's spent all her money on physicians, and instead of getting better – she got worse.
- This woman has hope – she's heard the reports of Jesus

***By faith, she leaves the comfort of her home.**

- This woman's desperation gives her courage – courage to believe what seems impossible.
- Heb 11:1 FAITH hoping for what is unseen
- **Leaves the safety of her home to find Jesus**
- She walks down the narrow street of her village. People quickly move to the other side of the street, or find an alternate route. The woman covers her head and perhaps her face to avoid the stares and whispers "unclean."
- They know she is unclean. And if they accidentally touch her they will be unclean and have to go through a week's purification ritual.
- Today the societal shame is not as painful – she is on a mission to find Jesus.
- Soon she hears the voices of the crowd. Hurries forward then stops to **observe from a distance. This has been her life, looking in from the outside.**
- **Courage kicks in.**

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***By faith, the woman joins the crowd following Jesus.**

VIDEO CLIP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYEmdFyWBq8> 30 sec to 1:47 sec

- The momentum of the crowd carries her along.
- 12 years . . . pain, 12 years bleeding – makes you weak, also makes you desperate.
- How can/will she break through the crowd to touch Jesus.
- Pushing forward she gets closer and closer until she can almost reach out and touch Jesus' robe. Too many people.
- Suddenly there is a space, she falls to the ground and reaches forward to touch the hem of Jesus' robe.

***By faith, she reaches forward to touch the hem of Jesus' robe.**

Immediately, the bleeding stopped The woman is HEALED!

TIME OUT!

Of course she's healed. She touched Jesus. Jesus is Jesus – divine. Son of God.

How can I touch Jesus?

- **Jesus isn't here physically "in person" – but He's still here – He's present and He still heals.**
- **That's what our JESUS does!!!**
-

***Jesus lifts you out of being stuck.**

- **That's what Jesus did for this woman stuck in 12 years of suffering.**
- **For this woman was more than physical suffering.**
- **She suffers from rejection, and shame and blame placed upon her.**
- **Jesus has more for her than she imagined. Physical healing isn't enough. He calls this woman out of the crowd**
- **Not to embarrass her – Jesus wants her heart to be healed from rejection and shame.**

45 Who touched me? Jesus asked Everyone denied it and Peter said, Master, the whole crowd is pressing up against you.

46 But Jesus said, "Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me." 47 When the woman realized that she could not stay hidden, she began to tremble and fell to her knees in front of him. The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched him and that she had been immediately healed. 48 "Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

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The woman is physically healed but Jesus wants more for her.

- What did Jesus call the woman?
- **DAUGHTER**
- The woman rejected by family, by her friends, by her community.
- Now part of the family of the MESSIAH.
- Do you think that preached in Galilee?
- Being stuck in a physical condition **wasn't the only part of her life that was stuck.**
- The woman was stuck in social shame and hurt.

We get stuck in emotional wounds.

- that have hurt us, past, current – shame

***We all have something within us that needs “unstuck.”**

- Jesus helps lift us out of stuck.

The crowd was stuck in a shaming culture – they needed to be unstuck by hearing the woman's testimony of faith.

There is no sin or shame or sickness that is a match for our Jesus.

Jesus turned to her and releases from shame, restores

- **Daughter, shame and shunning that was not her own, he not only healed physically restored her place in society. -- daughter of the Messiah -- you think that preached in Judea --**

Jesus is healer, each of us needs healing. When we meet with Jesus something in us is healed.

Sometimes we have to push through the lies of the enemy – this is as good as it's going to get. Your mental health is not going to improve, your disease is not going to get better, your _____...

Jesus cared about her physical healing, but he had more.

***Action steps for getting unstuck:**

Commit to experiencing uncomfortability: woman left her isolation to find Jesus.

***By faith, be ready to leave your comfort zone.**

***By faith, join the crowd that follows Jesus.**

- We need people to walk with us and challenge us.
- Find a Life Group

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- Find a mentor to be your encourager and tail kicker

***By faith, reach out to Jesus every day.**

- Knowing Jesus is personal relationship
- You're talking to Jesus a LOT, otherwise not personal, acquaintance
- Jesus is LIFE – want to improve your life
 - You only find that in JESUS

***What faith action step is Jesus asking you to take?**

Punch: **Want to hear what happened to my little brother?** He was wedged into that chimney. And he couldn't move – which was first. Talked about getting the grease can, water hose, calling the fire dept to get my brother unstuck. My dad came home at just the right time. He climbed on top of the grill. Grabbed my little brother squarely by the shoulders and yanked him at of there with one final swoop. Unstuck!

- Ending to my story of migraines: For 12 years almost like clockwork I had a painful migraine every week. And then one day several years after moving to Modesto: God said "enough." He lifted me out of the fire pit, He released me from migraines. He healed me.
- **That's what our God does!!**
- **He lifts us out of being stuck!**

***Where do you feel stuck?**

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Do you need prayer to be unstuck?

Just like the woman reached out her hand to touch to touch the hem of Jesus' robe.

We are going to reach forward to Jesus and touch the hem of his robe in prayer.

Prayer

***What faith action step is Jesus asking you to take?**

PRAYER

Benediction – Heb 11:1