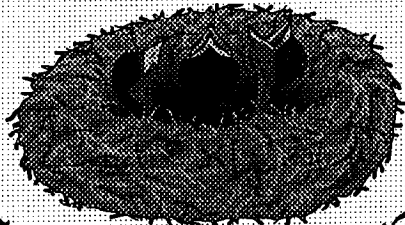
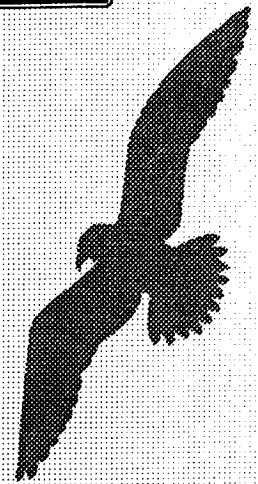


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



AERY NUGGETS

Dear Friends,

A Woman Meets Jesus

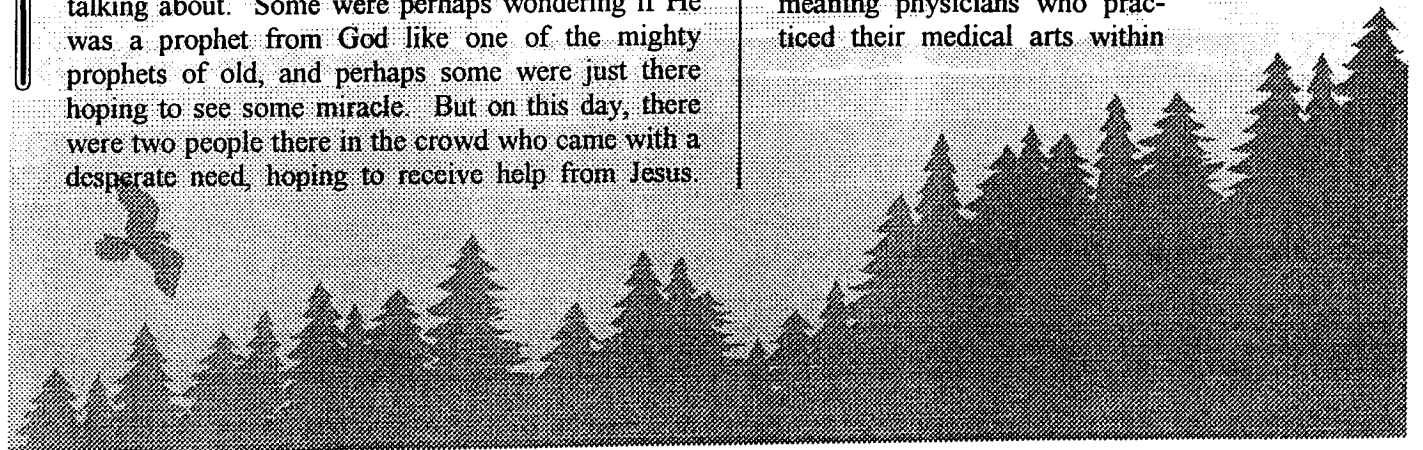
Please read Mark 5:25-34

As you read these 9 verses, I'm sure you'll recognize this story that falls within another story, that of the healing of Jairus' daughter. By way of context, the Lord Jesus had just returned from the land of the Gadarenes across the Sea of Galilee where he had cast out a legion of demons from a man, healing that man of his terrible affliction. The Lord Jesus had now returned to the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, where he was immediately thronged by a crowd of people. Everywhere that Jesus went, it seemed that He drew a crowd. People had heard of His miracles and perhaps some had heard His wonderful words—news of Him had spread far and wide, and everywhere He went, people were anxious to see Him.

On this day, there was quite a crowd which had gathered about Jesus. Some had no doubt come just to catch a glimpse of this One whom everyone was talking about. Some were perhaps wondering if He was a prophet from God like one of the mighty prophets of old, and perhaps some were just there hoping to see some miracle. But on this day, there were two people there in the crowd who came with a desperate need, hoping to receive help from Jesus.

The first was Jairus. Jairus had a daughter who was desperately sick with a fever and near death, and he came pushing through the crowd to meet Jesus and ask Him to come and heal his daughter. This was quite an act of faith, because Jairus was a ruler of the synagogue, a man who was highly regarded by his countrymen as a spiritual leader of the Jews. It would not have been easy for Jairus, in his position, to come to Jesus asking for healing, but Jairus was desperate. His daughter was dying, and no one had been able to help her. Somehow, Jairus knew that the Lord Jesus could help, so he made his way to Him and asked the Lord to come to his house and heal the girl. The Lord Jesus indicated that He would come, and they began to make their way to the home of Jairus; the throng of people followed along and continued to press upon the Lord.

It was at this time that the second desperate person approached Jesus. This was a certain woman whose name we do not read, only that she was afflicted by an issue of blood which had gone on twelve years. We read that she had spent all her money seeking treatment over these years, but her condition had only gotten worse, and her money had been spent. She had suffered much from these well meaning physicians who practiced their medical arts within



the limits of the knowledge of the day; and one can only imagine what she might have endured, only to find that none of this was of any benefit. She had no more money and no real hope of ever being healed. But she had heard of Jesus, and now, here He was right within her reach.

Unlike Jairus, however, this woman did not approach Jesus directly and ask Him for healing. Did you ever wonder why? She certainly seemed to have faith that Jesus could help her—she said to herself (verse 28), “If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.” So why not come ask Him? I don’t know the answer to this. Perhaps it was that the crowd was pressing in on Jesus so that she felt He would not devote His attention just to her. Or perhaps she felt that since He was going with a highly esteemed Jewish leader, that He would not stop for the likes of her. Perhaps she felt that the need of others was somehow more important than her own, and that the Lord would not have time for her. Whatever the reason, she was afraid to make her petition to Him directly, so she approached the Lord secretly through the crowd and reached out and touched His garment. In that moment, she felt within her that she was healed. What a moment! All those years she had gone to doctors who had tried to treat her but had only added to her misery, and now in a moment, she was healed!

Before she could slip back into the crowd, however, the Lord Jesus stopped and turned around and said, “Who touched My clothes?” (verse 30). I doubt the woman ever suspected that the Lord would be aware of this momentary touch in a jostling crowd. The disciples certainly thought it was strange to ask such a thing in a crowd where at practically every step, someone rubbed or bumped into them. But the truth was that Jesus knew what was going on all along. He knew this woman had come to Him seeking healing, even though she was reluctant to make her petition in person. Were you ever hesitant like that woman? Did you ever fear that the trial you were enduring might not be important enough to bring before the Lord Jesus? Perhaps you felt that with all the important people and issues in the world today, your concerns would not be of adequate significance to Him. Put that out of your minds— 1 Peter 5:7, “Casting all your cares upon Him; for He careth for you.” The Lord Jesus loves you more than you can know, no matter what your station in this world; and He has plenty of grace for all.

Jesus knew of the woman’s need—He knew all about her, and He was there for her on this day as much as for anyone else. More than this, she had a faith which was great, though she did not know the Lord very well as yet. He would show that faith to the world. The woman was about to meet Jesus and learn first hand of His grace and love. I can imagine His eyes scanned the crowd as He asked who it was that touched Him. The disciples grumbled because of the impossible task of telling who in that crowd touched Him—the easier question for the disciples might have been who did not touch Him? I can imagine

that Jairus too was impatient, still facing toward his home and possibly saying, “Master, what about my daughter?” But the Lord Jesus would not proceed—He had stopped for this woman. As His eyes fell on her, somehow she knew she could hide nothing from Him. Do you know that? Don’t think your thoughts are hidden from Him. He knows each of our most secret thoughts, our fears, and our doubts. Bring it all to the Lord! That is what this woman did. At once she was on her knees trembling, pouring out the whole story before the One who already knew of her great need. It touches the heart to hear the loving words of our Lord as he reassured her, “Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole” (verse 34). It was her faith that the Lord Jesus wanted to highlight. What a beautiful thing is faith in Jesus. What a testimony to a fallen world!

Then, the Lord Jesus said to her, “Go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.” This woman put her faith in the Lord Jesus, and she was healed of her terrible affliction. This was a great miracle. However, the greatest news of all for us is that the Lord Jesus came into this world to accomplish much more than just healing sickness and suffering. Before she met Jesus, this woman had an ailment of which she was not aware which was far more serious than her issue of blood, and it is an ailment shared by everyone who reads this paper if you do not know the Lord Jesus as your Savior. The Bible says, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23); furthermore we read, “the wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23). Sin is the affliction of all mankind that leads to death, and it is one that no physician on this earth can heal. Before we were even aware of our desperate need, the Lord Jesus came into the world and went to Calvary’s cross, there to take upon Himself all our sins. There he suffered the punishment for our sins, and there he shed His blood and paid the price for our redemption. He became our remedy for the sickness that leads to death. Through faith in Him, we have forgiveness for our sins, and healing and life! What wondrous grace and love has been bestowed on us! Will you believe on Him right now and receive salvation and life? May God grant that you do.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

Much love through Christ,

Steven J. Faulkner

For address correction or free new name addition,
write to:
Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury