

Devotional Guide - Week 3

Who Touched My Clothes?

Mark 5:21–43 | Malachi 4:2

Opening Prayer

Loving God,

As we come into Your presence, we ask that You would still our hearts and quiet our minds.

Help us to hear Your voice above all others.

Give us courage to be honest before You,
grace to receive what You long to give,
and faith to reach out to You again.

May Your Spirit be at work among us now.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Invitation to Read the Scriptures Again

Take time to read the passages slowly and prayerfully:

- **Mark 5:21–34** (the woman who touched Jesus' cloak)
- **Mark 5:35–43** (Jairus' daughter)
- **Malachi 4:2**

If you are in a group, you may wish to read the passages aloud, perhaps using different voices.

If alone, read slowly and imagine the scene — the crowd, the urgency, the fear, the hope.

As you read, ask yourself:

- What word, phrase, or image stands out to me today?
- Where do I notice myself in the story?

Pause in silence for a moment after reading.

Summary of the Scriptures

In Mark 5, we encounter two intertwined stories.

Jairus, a respected synagogue leader, comes publicly to Jesus, desperate for his dying daughter to be healed. On the way to his home, Jesus is interrupted by an unnamed woman who has been bleeding for twelve years — an illness that has made her physically exhausted, socially isolated, and ritually unclean.

She reaches out quietly from behind and touches the edge of Jesus' cloak, believing that even this small contact will be enough. Immediately, she is healed. Jesus stops and asks, "Who touched my clothes?" Not because He lacks knowledge, but because He wants to draw her out of hiding and restore her fully — not just in body, but in dignity, identity, and belonging.

Jesus calls her "Daughter."

The story then returns to Jairus' daughter, whom Jesus restores to life, again touching what would have been considered unclean. In both encounters, Jesus is not contaminated by uncleanness — instead, His holiness brings healing and restoration.

Malachi's ancient promise — that healing would come in the "wings" or hem of God's garment — is fulfilled as God draws near in Christ.

Recap of the Sermon

The sermon invites us to reflect on **the power of touch** — both its presence and its absence.

Through two personal stories, we are reminded that touch can communicate life, comfort, and connection, and that its denial can deepen grief and isolation.

In the Gospel story, Jesus asks a question that shapes everything: **"Who touched my clothes?"**

This question reveals that Jesus is:

- **Interruptible** — He stops in the middle of urgency
- **Attentive** — He notices faith even in the crowd
- **Restorative** — He heals shame as well as sickness

The woman risks exposure and rejection by reaching out. Yet instead of rebuke, she receives compassion, affirmation, and belonging. Her healing is not complete until she is seen and named.

The sermon also challenges us to notice how easy it can be to pray for others while struggling to receive Christ's healing for ourselves. Jesus still stands among us, still clothed in mercy, still inviting us to reach out — whether we feel confident like Jairus or hidden like the woman.

When Christ touches us, nothing remains the same. His healing restores what fear and shame have stolen and flows outward into the lives of others.

Thought-Provoking Questions

Take your time with these. You don't need to answer them all.

1. Where do you see yourself in this story today — more like Jairus, coming openly, or the woman, reaching out quietly?
2. What might have made it difficult for the woman to come forward and speak the truth to Jesus?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose to stop and ask, "Who touched me?" rather than letting the healing remain private?
4. Are there areas of your life where you long for healing but feel hesitant, ashamed, or unsure about asking?
5. How comfortable are you with receiving prayer, care, or compassion for yourself?
6. What does it mean for you to hear Jesus call someone "Daughter" or "Child"?
7. Where do you sense Jesus might be inviting you into deeper wholeness — not just physically, but emotionally, spiritually, or relationally?

Action: Reaching Out Again

This week, choose **one small, intentional step**:

- **Reach out to Christ:**
Spend a few minutes each day in quiet prayer, simply saying, “*Jesus, I am here. I need You.*”
- **Name your need:**
Write down one area where you desire healing or restoration. Offer it honestly to God.
- **Allow yourself to receive:**
If possible, ask someone you trust to pray for you — resisting the urge to minimise or rush past your own need.
- **Be Christ’s touch to others:**
Notice someone on the margins this week. Offer presence, kindness, or listening — without fixing or rushing.

Closing Prayer

Jesus,
You are still stopping in the crowd.
Still noticing faith.
Still drawing near to those who reach out.

We bring You our hidden places,
our weariness,
our longing to be seen and made whole.

Touch us again, Lord —
restore what has been wounded,
heal what has been broken,
and send us out carrying Your compassion into the world.

May Your healing flow into our lives
and through our lives,
for the sake of others.

In Your holy name we pray.
Amen.