

Week 8 - The Hem of His Garment



The Healing Power of Simple Faith

We've all heard of various "miracle cures" from friends, family, or social media. Special diets, essential oils, and health elixirs may have some value, but do we naturally consider faith in Jesus as a primary source of healing power?

1 - A little adventure, or play it safe? - Go around your group and each member respond to this question - in general, do you prefer to play it safe and predictable, or to be a bit adventurous and take some risks? Give an example.

2 - Watch the Video for Week 8 with Pastor Scott

3 - Read & Discuss the story of A Woman of Faith -

- **The power of faith**- Our reading is a story that appears in Matthew, Mark, and Luke's Gospels. Matthew chapter 9 features several stories of Jesus' healing power and forgiveness interacting with faith (*read these later*):
 - **Matthew 9:1-8** - *A paralytic is healed when Jesus sees the faith of his friends - a miracle that also demonstrates Jesus' power to forgive sins.*
 - **Matthew 9:27-30** - *Two blind men are healed after Jesus asks if they believe in His power. (Read verse 29, the key emphasis of this chapter.)*
- **Two stories of healing - Read Matthew 9:18-26** - Note the faith of Jairus (the synagogue leader), and the woman suffering from a hemorrhage, which made her ritually impure. This prevented her from attending Temple or synagogue services.
 - *Matthew emphasizes that some believed in Jesus while others were skeptical. What role do you see faith playing in these stories?*
- **Why did the woman reach for the hem of Jesus' garment?** - Let's walk through this passage to understand why the woman did this:
 - The Jewish people expected a prophet like a new Moses to be sent by God: **Read Deuteronomy 18:15-19**. On Mt. Sinai, Moses received God's commandments for the people, but God promises another prophet that will speak His Word directly to the people, and to listen to him.
 - **Now read Numbers 15:37-41** - The people are instructed to wear tassels on the corners of their garments to remind them to have faith in God's commands. **See the picture at right of this garment...*
- *From these two passages, belief developed that the Messiah sent by God would obey God's commandments so completely and speak God's Word so faithfully that there would be healing and purifying power in the tassels of His prayer shawl. When the woman reaches for Jesus' tassel, how does this demonstrate her faith?*
- *As believers in Jesus, how does this story guide us into faith in Jesus for salvation, and also for spiritual, physical, and emotional healing?*
- **Pray for each other - Share how today's readings inspire you to think, pray, and live with deeper faith in Jesus!**



Tallit with Tzitzit

A tallit is a prayer shawl worn by Jewish men. It is a reminder of the Tabernacle in the wilderness - like a personal "tent of meeting" with the Lord.

Tzitzit are the "fringes" or hem of the garment, with 613 knots as a reminder of all the commandments in the Torah.

