

The Hem of Jesus: Your Source of Power

Matthew 14:34-36

*When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place **recognized Him**, they sent out into the entire surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and **begged Him** that they might only **touch the hem**¹ of His garment. And as many as **touched it [the hem]** was made **perfectly well**.*

- What is important to not from this passage is that Matthew writes that the men of Gennesaret recognized Jesus as soon as He had entered their region. Not only did that recognize the blessing that was in their backyard but they came from all over the region to the place where Jesus was and after they had found Him, they pleaded with Him that they may touch the tassel of His garment.
- What is also important to note is that everyone who touched Jesus' garment was all made perfectly well.
- There are 4 important things I want to highlight in this passage...
 1. They **recognized** who Jesus was
 - To recognize – to know well; to become fully acquainted with
 2. They **came** to Jesus
 3. They **begged** Him
 - To beg -
 4. They **touched** Him

Mark 6:54-56

*And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people **recognize Him**, **ran** through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick **to wherever they heard He was**. Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged Him that they might just **touch the hem** of His garment. And as many as touched Him was made well.*

- This story in Mark 6 is the same story in Matthew 14 but with a few more added details. In this passage, Mark reveals how the people came to Jesus, by telling us “they ran to Him.” In addition to running to Jesus, Mark also notes that they brought the sick to wherever they heard He was.
- In this passage it is important to note several things...
 1. the people **hurried** to Jesus once they recognized Him
 2. the people **heard** about Jesus' ministry which in turn inspired them to bring the sick unto Him

Mark 3:8-11

*And Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan; and those from Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they **heard how many things He was doing, came to Him**. So He*

¹ Hem is also translated tassel in many texts. Tassels are long pieces of thread that hang from the hem of garments and they serve to remind people of the Word of God and how they are to embrace it.



told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude, lest they should crush Him. For **He healed many**, so **that** as many as had afflictions **pressed about Him to touch Him**. And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, “You are the Son of God.”

- In this third chapter of Mark, he gives us an account of how people once again were healed by through touching the hem of Jesus. In this account, Mark writes that “when they heard how many things Jesus was doing, they came unto Him.” In other words, the people heard how Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were sick and oppressed by the devil. This spreading of the good news created a synergy of faith among the people to the point that they were willing to do anything just to get in Jesus’ vicinity.
- What is interesting to not about this portion of Scripture is that the people went so far as to press their way through any and every obstacle so that they could touch Him.
- What’s also important to note is that not only were people healed from touching the hem of Jesus’ garments –they were also delivered from all unclean spirits. Look at the passage and notice how Mark notes that the evil unclean spirits had no choice but to bow at the feet of Jesus.

Luke 6:17-19

*And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who **came to hear Him** and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude **sought to touch Him**, for power went out from Him and healed them all.*

- In this text in Luke, we find what I believe to be another important revelation concerning “a touch of Jesus’ hem” and that is once the people touched the hem of Jesus’ garment –power [supernatural-godly ability] left the person of Jesus and transferred over to the person making the point of contact.
- Think about it, what an awesome thought, knowing that if I am in need of anything I can make contact with Jesus’ hem and have His supernatural power transferred into my life resulting both in my healing and deliverance.

Mark 5:24-34

*Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she **heard about Jesus**, she **came behind Him** in the crowd and **touched His garment**. For she said, “**If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.**” Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that **power had gone out of Him**, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” But his disciples said to Him, “You see the multitude thronging you and you say, “Who touched me?” And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and **fell down before Him** and told Him the whole truth. And he said to her, “**Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.**”*



- This story within Scripture is a great demonstration of determinative faith and persistency, as a single woman pressed her way through a crowd of thousands to make a point of contact with the hem of Jesus.
- In this story, several **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** principles are illustrated regarding one's approach to the hem of the King.
 1. she heard about Jesus
 2. she pressed her way through a crowd to touch Jesus
 3. she confidently spoke to her situation
 4. she believed in Jesus
 5. she touched Him
 6. she worshipped

"Who touched Me?"

- What is interesting to note is that although many people were hording around Jesus to touch Him, the story reveals that only one person was able to touch Jesus in a way to provoke His power into their life.
- When the woman with the issue of blood made her contact with Jesus' hem, Jesus responded, "Who touched me?" Stunned by Jesus' response, Peter sarcastically answered Jesus with a "what do you mean; Lord, everyone is touching you." What we see in this story and in many other instances in the Bible is that there is a wrong way and a right way to approach God. When we learn how to approach God in an appropriate way, the result is always favorable.

"The 7 Keys of the Approach"

- From each of the stories there are several important keys that I want to pull out concerning our approach to "the Hem of Jesus."
 1. We must **recognize** Jesus
 2. We must **hear** Him
 3. We must **believe**
 4. We must **come** to Him
 5. We must **pray**
 6. We must **reach** out to Him in order to receive
 7. We must **worship** by offering thanksgiving

These seven action words are important principles that I believe were illustrated in many of the gospel stories when describing some of the successful approaches of many who were sick, oppressed and afflicted. As we study the successful approach of many in the Word of God, an important question to ask besides how they approach Jesus is why they approached the hem of Jesus' garment.



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The Significance of the Hem

Numbers 15:37-41

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all my commandments and be holy for your God. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the Lord your God.”

- Tassels are long pieces of thread that hang from the hem of garments and they serve to remind people of the Word of God and how they are to embrace it. In many translations of the New Testament, you find the word tassel used for the word hem.
- During the times of Jesus, when people sought to touch the hem of Jesus’ garment, they actually were trying to take hold of the tassels that hung from Jesus’ clothes.

The significance of the hem [or tassel] is that all who sought to touch the hem of Jesus’ garments were not just touching an ordinary piece of clothing but they were actually laying hold of a physical representation of the *Divine Word of God*. Each time we see a person in the gospel pressing their way through a crowd to reach the feet of Jesus, they were all pressing their way to lay a hold of God’s promise. As God revealed to Moses in Numbers, the tassels are there to help us REMEMBER what God has promised us.

- What is interesting about the tassels that hung from Jesus’ garment is that it demonstrates to us that every precious promise from God is found through the person of Jesus Christ.
- The tassels that hung from Jesus’ garment reveal...
 - every answer we need is found by laying hold of God’s Word
 - our healing and deliverance is at the feet of Jesus
- The tassel, which is the hem of Jesus, when it is remembered and kept in sight, will keep us from straying away from God so that we can continue in faith, victorious over the temptation to doubt and disbelieve.

Psalm 133

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for the brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing –life forevermore.

- Aaron, father of the Old Testament priesthood, is a type of Christ, who was anointed by God to serve and minister on behalf of the people. Here in Psalm 133, we see that the oil God anointed Aaron with eventually made its way to the hem of Aaron’s garments.



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- The revelation of the anointing oil at the hem is that it was the place where God commanded the blessing –life forevermore.
- That means at the hem of Jesus, thousands of years prior to Jesus’ arrival, God ordained for the hem to be a blessing of LIFE FOREVERMORE.

The Anointed Hem

Not only is the hem of Jesus a physical representation of the Word of God, it is also a deposit full of precious anointing oil. Anointing oil is the yoke destroying and burden removing power of God.

Isaiah 10:27

It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.

- There is an anointing at the hem of Jesus to remove yokes from off our necks and burdens from off our shoulders. Not only can we experience healing from the hem of Jesus but we can also experience dynamic deliverance in our lives.

The Mystery of the Hem

The mystery of the hem is that it reveals to us the dynamic power of God’s Word to change lives. Time after time, we read in the gospels where many were healed and delivered just from touching [laying hold of] the tassels of Jesus. Because we know the tassels which hung from Jesus’ garments were actually physical representations of the holy Word of God, we should have confidence today to lay hold of our spiritual tassel [and that happens to be the written Word of God].

Unlike yesterday, we don't have to press our way through a great crowd to access the tassel of Jesus so that we can be healed. Today we only need but to press our way to the [physical] written Word of God which has in it the spiritual tassels of Jesus for us to lay a hold of. The believer’s healing and deliverance today doesn’t come like it did yesterday but instead it comes from laying hold of God’s promise [His specific Scripture addressing our present problem] located in the Word –this is the revelatory mystery of the hem!

The revelation of the hem of Jesus is that since the beginning of Jesus’ time on earth, the people who sought to receive healing from the hem were not just seeking to touch a piece of cloth but they were in fact seeking to touch the anointed one and his anointing, that is Jesus Christ, the sure Word of God. True healing and power doesn’t just come from a piece of cloth but it comes from placing one’s faith in Jesus and the Word’s ability to move on one’s behalf.

In order for us to touch the hem of Jesus [today], we must place our faith in what God has prescribed to us in His Holy Word through the person of Jesus Christ. It is by faith in



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Jesus and Him alone that we are saved [this includes His Word because Jesus and the Word of God are one in the same].

7 Steps to Approaching "The Hem of Jesus"

1. Recognize the Word
2. Hear the Word
3. Believe the Word
4. Confess the Word
5. Locate the Word
6. Push the Word
7. Receive the Word



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