

**Title:** ENCOUNTER IN THE CROWD

**Text:** Mark 5:25-34

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### **A Desperate Act by a Desperate Nobody**

- *A woman subject to bleeding...*
- *"If I just touch His clothes..."*

### **A Surprising Response from a Surprising Healer**

- *"Who touched me?"*
- *"Daughter, your faith has made you well."*
- *"Go in peace."*

### **Where do we go in our desperation?**

- To the One who accepts the unacceptable
- To the One who gives above and beyond

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## CONVERSATION STARTER

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- Would you consider yourself a superstitious person? In what ways? Why do you think people are superstitious? What's the strangest superstition you've encountered?
- Read Mark 5:21-34. How is the woman in this passage described? What were some of the difficulties this woman was facing? In what ways does this passage suggest that the woman is superstitious? What's surprising about the way in which this woman is healed? Why do you think Jesus wanted the woman to identify herself? What do you think Jesus was doing in calling this woman "daughter"? What connection does Jesus make between this woman's faith and her restoration to health and wholeness?
- Read the excerpt below. How do Lewis' words point to God's desire to restore above and beyond our expectations? Do you agree with Lewis that God puts us into situations, "where he will have to be very much braver, or more patient, or more loving, than he ever dreamed of being before." Why or why not? In what ways is God renovating your house in unintended fashion? How have you responded to this?
- What are some ways you try to receive from Jesus without telling him the whole truth? What do we learn about the grace Jesus extends in this passage? How can this grace change the way you approach Jesus? How might we as a community extend the grace of Jesus to those who are socially outcast?

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**EXCERPT FROM:** *Mere Christianity*

**BY:** C. S. Lewis

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This is why we must not be surprised if we are in for a rough time. When a man turns to Christ and seems to be getting on pretty well (in the sense that some bad habits are now corrected), he often feels that it would now be natural if things went fairly smoothly. When troubles come along – illnesses, money troubles, new kinds of temptation – he is disappointed. These things, he feels, might have been necessary to rouse him and make him repent in his bad old days; but why now? Because God is forcing him on, or up, to a higher level: putting him into situations where he will have to be very much braver, or more patient, or more loving, than he ever dreamed of being before. It seems to us all unnecessary: but that is because we have not yet had the slightest notion of the tremendous thing He means to make of us. I find I must borrow yet another parable from George MacDonald. Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of – throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a descent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.