

## “Twelve Years”

It is said that in life you are either entering a storm, in the middle of one, or exiting one with a brief time of peace and tranquility before a new one ushers in. Whoever you are, it is probable that you are in one of these three stages now as you read this article. Interestingly enough, the duration of each stage is unknown however it does appear that those seasons of peace and tranquility do not stay around for too long. They inhabit our lives for a brief moment so as to provide a sort of intermission or “bathroom break” as we get ready for a new storm or difficulty. This should come as no surprise because Jesus did say that there would be trials and tribulations, however He also said that He already overcame them (John 16:33). These are certainly words of encouragement that should sustain us through those storms, but often it is during the most difficult of storms that we tend to forget those very words from our Lord. I have found that we tend to lose direction, focus, and abandon the very principles that we were taught and instructed to hold dear as the storms take longer to reprieve. The longer we are in that particularly difficult situation, the more the tendency there is to alter our position of faith in God. I know that, personally, the longer I am in a fierce storm, the greater the battle to hold on to faith and believe for a breakthrough. I know that I am not alone for many that I have spoken to seem to experience similar sentiments as they deal with their own challenges. And, even now as I speak to many who are concerned over the future of this country as we deal with moral, social, economic, spiritual, security, and leadership issues, we can be sure that there will be many more challenges in the coming years. However, during those seasons of personal or national storms, regardless of how long they take there is a way to respond.

In Mark 5:24-34, we can take a page out of an unsuspecting woman who, through her actions, can inspire us to understand how to act in response to our troubles. Although, her mention is brief in the Bible, her example is tantamount to us today as we face our own difficulties. The Bible speaks of this woman who obviously struggled with a personal health difficulty for twelve years. Now, twelve years is a long time for anyone to be in pain and suffering. It is a long time for someone to have to endure. Thought this poor woman’s struggle was a health issue, we all have had our own struggles and difficulties that have been with us for a long time, true? Her issue was health...what is yours? Do you know what can happen to anyone during long stretches of time in pain and suffering? What can happen is what I suspect could have happened in some form to this woman (and anyone for that matter) - the temptation to lose hope, lose faith, become depressed, angry and bitter because, after all, twelve years is a very long time and can appear even longer when you are struggling. Is that not so? She could have wallowed in her misery but, obviously, that is not what this woman entertained. Oh, I am sure that she had her days, but what she did and how she responded serves as a lesson to us today. In fact, what she did was seek Jesus for her healing. She knew exactly where to go and who to go see. Her attentiveness to where Jesus was is what brought her to Him for healing. As the Scriptures infer, she was not interested in making a scene or causing a distraction to anyone. She was intent and content with just touching Jesus’ garment. She knew that would be enough to heal her. What faith she had to believe that Jesus’ power to heal does not require a showman’s approach or any attention! It required simple unassuming faith. All she needed was a touch to be healed, yet a simple touch got Jesus’ attention. As He said, “... your faith has healed you.” She was healed that very moment. Incidentally, has your faith gotten the attention of Jesus?

Today, you can take heart and realize that however long our times of pain and suffering are currently, or will be in the future, we are to not lose hope, lose faith, become depressed, angry, bitter or distracted. In addition, we need to stay focused on Jesus because He is the “where to go” and “who to go see” for our source of strength, encouragement and healing. It is only through these principles that will we be able to get through our own twelve years.

***By: Jesus Maymi***