

Stories go deep. Jesus knew this, and so He often told parables--little stories--to express the profound truths He taught. People would stop and listen and think about what He had to say.

A child's heart is very good soil here, because it is a place of faith and imagination. For this reason I have chosen to illustrate truths of Scripture in story form. By doing so, it becomes possible for the listener to step inside and look around--to discover the Lord Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

These stories could fit well in family devotionals and would be of great benefit in helping both Finnish children and immigrants of all ages in improving their English language skills.

I pray that these Scripture-based writings will be used by Him.

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## **A Healed Daughter (Matt. 9:20–22)**

She had actually been quite well off in days gone by. But the endless visitation of doctors had put such a strain on her finances that now she was outright poor.

It started with an innocent flow of blood. But Jews declare a person unclean while their blood flows. And so the woman could not attend the synagogue or take part in social activities. She was an outsider. It was a lonely place to be.

For this reason Esther had been quick right away to visit a physician. The only problem was that he could do nothing for her. Shortly after that she decided to try another, more prestigious, doctor. "Surely, he will know what to do," the woman said to herself as she entered his waiting room that day. But he, too, was unsuccessful. And so it was that Esther, in twelve years, had spent almost everything she had. She had become an impoverished outcast and was desperate.

It was this sad state of affairs that she was mourning over that day in the streets before her. "What is it?" she questioned a shopkeeper next to her. "Jesus of Nazareth is coming," he responded. "He's going to heal a centurion's daughter."

"Healing a daughter..." she thought to herself. "I am a daughter. A *Jewish* daughter." And before her very eyes a plan formed. "If only I could touch the fringe of his garment...he is a holy man...he has

healed others...I will be healed!"

Soon the holy man was passing right before her. So she bent down, squeezing to just reach the fringe of his garment...*there it was--"I touched it!"* she assured herself. And suddenly she felt something like power go through her and she knew that from that moment she had been healed of years and years of affliction.

Immediately the crowd stopped. Jesus turned and looked at the crowd. He was searching for someone. "Someone touched my clothes--I felt the power go out of me!" he declared. "You see the crowd thronging around you," cried his disciples in surprise. "How can you say, 'Who touched me?'" And as his eyes perused the crowd, they came to rest on Esther.

Now she was afraid. Trembling, she came to Jesus and fell down before him. Without hesitation, she told the whole truth: her hemorrhaging, her uncleanness, all the doctors' bills...the despair.

But then Jesus did the most extraordinary thing. He wasn't angry. Instead, he looked deeply into her eyes and smiled. "Daughter, your faith has made you well," Jesus assured her. "Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction." She was a daughter, a *healed* daughter, and the Lord had made it known to everyone.

Life would be different after this.

"And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. For she said to herself, 'If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.' But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, 'Be of good cheer, daughter, your faith has made you well.' And the woman was made well from that hour."

Matt. 9:20-22