

Verse 8:45 of this passage finds Jesus asking, “Who was it that touched me?” Some commentators see a difficulty here. How could the Lord not know who was touching Him?

Of course He knows. It’s well recognized that Jesus salted many of His conversations with leading questions. It might be to impale a Pharisee on the horns of a dilemma by asking whose inscription — Caesar’s — was on a coin. Or, earlier in this chapter He rebuked the disciples by asking, “Where is your faith?” He will soon ask them, “Who do men say that I am?” The response from Peter will establish the foundations of the Church.

So Jesus knows everything about this poor woman. He does not let her quietly slip away. His question draws out her declaration of faith — why she came to

Him — and her testimony of what He has done for her. His question turns the gratitude of her heart into a public declaration.

We do not have Jesus physically present to ask us pointed questions. But we have His Word and His Spirit. *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword ... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart”* (Heb. 4:12). *“The Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God”* (1 Cor. 2:10).

We all have times of spiritual questioning. Could it be that while we think we are questioning God, He is actually questioning *us*? Could He, as Jesus did with the woman, be probing for that kernel of faith within us to draw it out, to His praise and glory? Think of the story of Job.

Questions:

1. On Jesus’ return from His trip across the lake, He is met by Jairus with an urgent petition. Then as He goes to grant that request, a woman brings another need to Him. How does Jesus react to interruptions? How do we?
2. Why does the woman need faith to approach Jesus and touch His robe?
3. Has Jairus’s daughter actually died?

4. What principles for discipleship or ministry can we find in verses 9:1-5?
5. Is Herod's interest in Jesus (9:9) a genuine spiritual awakening? How can people today be like Herod?
6. The gospels contain several accounts of the disciples being sent out on "missionary" journeys. But we have no detailed accounts of what happens on those journeys, as we do in Acts. Why, do you think?
7. What lessons about the character of God can we take from 9:10-17?