

Verses 25-34 tell of the interlude that takes place while Jesus is on His way to heal Jairus' daughter. A woman who has suffered from bleeding for twelve years approaches Him hoping to be healed.

And well she might. Leviticus 15:25-30 declares that a woman with a bleeding disorder like this is ceremonially unclean. Anyone who touched her bed or her chair would also be unclean until evening of that day. So she had not only suffered from physical sickness but isolation from her family and community. No wonder she had spent all she had to be healed.

This may explain why she only presumes to touch the Lord's clothing. She is afraid she might pass her uncleanness to Him. But a miracle happens. Instead of her uncleanness "infecting" Him, His cleanliness in all its sinless perfection heals her. This goes against all our

experience, where dirty things (or people) soil clean ones but never the other way around.

In Luke 7:14, the Lord touches the bier of a dead man. In Matthew 8:3 He touches a leper. The Law of Moses prohibited both of these. Does that mean that Jesus violated the law? No!! The moment He touched the dead man, he returned to life. The moment He touched the leper He was healed. The law was instantly rendered meaningless and of no effect.

What a picture of grace. God does not violate His holiness by accepting those who are still bound in the uncleanness of sin. Instead, the moment they believe they are made clean in His eyes through the blood of His Son.

"For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2).

Questions:

1. Where is the country of Gerasenes, or Gadarenes, where the account of verses 1-20 takes place?
2. What are the alarming actions of the possessed man who lives among the tombs?
3. Why does the demon-possessed man throw himself at Jesus' feet?

4. What might be the reason for Jesus granting the spirits' request to enter the herd of pigs?

5. Why do the local people beg for Jesus to leave the area?

6. Most of the synagogue "establishment" have been contemptuous of Jesus but here Jairus prostrates himself before Him. Why? Have you ever felt like Jairus?

7. How does the woman with the bleeding disorder show unusual faith?

8. Messengers come to tell Jairus that his daughter is dead. Are they correct?

9. What can we learn from Jesus's parting instruction to the girl's family?