

Purple Corner

This Woman

And a woman who had suffered from a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians, and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, who is it who touched me? When all were denying it, Peter and those who were with him said, Master, the multitudes surround you and press you on every side! But Jesus said, someone did touch me; for I perceived that power had gone forth from me. And the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came up trembling, and, falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people for what reason she had touched him and how she had been instantly cured. And he said to her, daughter, your faith has made you well! Go into peace. (Luke 8:43-48, Amplified Bible)

This woman in Luke knew what it was like to feel isolated and trapped in a situation that seemed hopeless. She understood the loneliness of being shunned by people in her community and she was no stranger to the pain of abuse. This woman, if she were here today could easily engage us on the subject of low self-esteem, damaged emotions and societal inflicted pain and suffering. She could and probably would fit right in if offered a seat in a support group for abused women. This woman could relate to the deep and dark feelings of hopelessness and the grip of frustration encountered from going from one physician to another, only to be sent to still another. She could relate to the frustration of the abused woman who goes from one agency to another, hearing we can't help you but you may want to try calling

This side of her story is rather obvious to most who have heard or read this passage from Luke but let's not be too hasty and miss the other part of her experience. Not only could she share her story of pain, she could also shed light on the importance of women in the eyes of God. She mattered to Jesus for if it were not so he would have treated her as all the others were doing. He could have/ would have continued on his way and pretended that she did not exist, but he didn't. No, at her touch, our Lord and Savior stopped in his tracks, inquired as to who touched him and went so far as to turn around and speak to her. If she wasn't important in his eyes he would not have done any of these things and he certainly would not have offered her his peace, nor would he have stopped to heal her.

During this month that has been established as Women's History Month, women know that you are important in the eyes of God, realize that he cares enough about you to stop and talk to you, to let you know he is acquainted with your pain and he is willing and able to heal you. Even if it has been a long, lonely road, he knows so when someone tells you that you don't matter, remember you are precious in the eyes of God.

To the men who may be reading this article, take heed to the model of Jesus and honor the women in your life, treat them as Jesus did this woman and celebrate the chosen vessels of God not just during this month when the history of women is being emphasized but do so everyday because she truly is worthy in the eyes of God.

Beauty for Ashes Ministry, Inc. joins in the celebration of Women's History Month and we salute the women who have gone before us to make life better for us all. We celebrate in advance those who will come after to continue the work already began and who will add new experiences to the pages of women's history.

Reverend Marguerite Lee