

# Give Up Ten

## Week Two - Laura's Story

### Jesus heals the woman who touched his hem

#### Reading - Luke 8

As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. <sup>43</sup> Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. <sup>44</sup> She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, and immediately her flow of blood stopped. <sup>45</sup> Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds are hemming you in and pressing against you." <sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I noticed that power had gone out from me." <sup>47</sup> When the woman realized that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed. <sup>48</sup> He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

*The Bible Stories are taken from the NRSV version.*

*Each contribution reflects the individual's own experiences, story and theology.*

#### Reflection

My favourite story is the one where the woman goes through the crowd and touches the hem of Jesus's cloak.

You can imagine the people in the crowd seeing her and saying: "Don't touch him, don't touch him," but she did.

That woman had been shunned. I have been through a lot and I know how that feels. But it still amazes me that whatever you have done Jesus is always there. He treats you just the same as the person with the cleanest sheet, the person who has been a Christian all their life.

People can be so horrible in the outside world - but no matter what is happening to you, a physical thing, mental health or you have done something horrific, Jesus is not bothered. He recognises that you had the audacity to go and touch him. He just turns round and says you have come to me and you are healed.

The woman in that story, it didn't matter who she was, she was someone who needed Jesus. I wouldn't be here without Jesus.

People are shunned so easily today but to God none of it matters. Or you could say it mattered so much to him he sent his Son to die for us on the cross making our sins void. He doesn't care what you have done previously. Some people don't know that. I didn't know that.

No matter what you have done - God just says: "What can I do for you?"  
Sometimes I thought that Jesus was so perfect that I couldn't go to him with the stuff that had happened to me. But when you do you find yourself literally set free.

## Questions

Have you had a time when you needed a lot of courage to approach Jesus?  
What does the freedom Jesus gives mean to you?

## Prayer

No matter what  
You offer healing to us  
You see our pain and disease  
You make the impossible, possible  
Thank you, Jesus

No matter what  
You offer forgiveness to us  
You free us from our wounds and scars  
You make the impossible, possible  
Thank you, Jesus

No matter what  
You let us come close to you  
You never shun but always accept  
You make the impossible, possible  
Thank you, Jesus

No matter what  
You look at us with love and kindness  
You see the worth in each of us  
You make the impossible, possible  
Thank you, Jesus

No matter what  
When we come to you,  
However we come,  
Hurting, ill, shamed, despised,  
We hear you say  
Go in peace  
And we go, we go on  
Because you make the impossible, possible  
Thank you Jesus.  
Amen 🙏

## Action

Ending the need for food banks might seem like an impossible task but we know that it is possible if we all work together for a more equal and just society, edging step by step to building an earth that is a little more like heaven. [Join us](#) in raising your voice to call for change and make sure no one has to use a food bank to get by.