

Kailua Christian Church  
Sunday Message  
Sun. February 7, 2021  
Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson  
“Healing, Healthy and Helping”  
*Vision for a new season*

**Healing**  
**“Where care and recovery from brokenness  
can be received from God”**

*Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease.” Mark 5:25-34*

Today we are continuing in our message series focusing on **Healing, where care and recovery from brokenness can be received from God.**

It was around 1989 that I was in my third year of my first senior pastor position, and it was here at Kailua Christian Church. We were in the middle of being sued by one of our preschool teacher assistants. The woman had accumulated a collection of felt offensives and grievances and shaped them in her own mind and to her lawyer into exaggerated and in many details, simply untruths. We discovered at one point she had done this before to other schools and programs. It was a painfully difficult process preparing for and finding our way through depositions with her lawyers, multiple meetings with our own lawyer and our own lengthy conversations of disbelief and deep hurt. Our church council and congregational meetings wrestled together with how to find our way through the spectrum of the many feelings of hurt, anger, even resentment, with temptations to want to strike back. It was great deal of challenging days to my sense of leading and finding what was best, often consuming, draining me of any sense of good or fruitlessness. One afternoon, I was alone at home on my knees, feeling I was at the end of my capacity to know how to lead our church further. I felt helpless and useless in many ways. I remember simply calling out to God in the emptiness of my own sense of complete lack of control. A heavy weight of purposeless to my life bore down on me. As remained in quiet despair, waiting, and hoping for something, I remember seeing so vividly in my mind’s eye the sky filled with clouds now suddenly part. The sun brightly beamed down, and a spirit of hope filled my heart and mind. Nothing had changed in the circumstances, but I was lifted with some new strength. As I headed over to the church, I felt lighter and more peaceful to meet with the preschool families who had been contacted by the woman suing us. She had called many of them with false stories, many wild accusations of our director, teachers and even me. The confusion was swirling around and among the families with great concern for the well-being of their children. As much as I was not looking forward to the meeting, it went as well as I could have hoped with openness and honesty without defensiveness or attacking from the parents or us.

I was exhausted and stepped into my office to check on something as parents were leaving in their cars. Just as I was about to close up, one of the father’s asked if he could talk with me. Immediately I imagined the worst. Instead, he simply shared that he wanted to know God more

personally and asked if I could help. He had been struggling, finding little meaning in life, looked to the night lights the past few days and wondered if God was there, could see him, hear him, and cared or not. We had an amazing conversation. He asked me for help to receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and began a new life that evening. He became part of the church, a good friend and brother in Christ. I came home, cried with joy, and humbled by God's care for this man and me. God found me with care and recovery to my soul. Some of my greatest hopes and desires God restored in me to live into.

In this passage today, when Jesus entered this village, little did his disciples, or the village know that a woman forbidden by culture and belief to be among people. Because of her long and agonizing ailment of constant bleeding, it seemed impossible that she would find God's care and recovery. Yet on that day, with a desperate abandonment she would reach out to Jesus and He would give her peace and a cure of her soul. Her experience of God's care and recovery is also meant to guide and encourage each of us as well.

### **I receive God's care and recovery when...**

#### **I. I come to realize my limits of control and abilities**

*Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse." Mark 5:25-34*

When we come to the place in life that we feel we have done all we could and yet more is needed, this is a vital point of feeling lost and beyond what we know or feel we can do. The pain of realizing we can't always control circumstances, others, even God or ourselves can be devastating. It is in our darkest moments, where God brings His purest light. Even in the simplest of ways, He finds a way to bring us peace, strength and hope we didn't think was possible. Facing our limits is necessary often times to really discover God's care and recovery.

- ***What frustration, fear, or anxiousness are you facing? Could this be a matter of facing your own limits of control? Can you share this with God today?***

### **I receive God's care and recovery when...**

#### **II. I risk seeking relief from Christ**

*She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Mark 5:27-28*

Many of us were raised to not give in, give up or admit weakness or limits. We were told or impressed upon that shame or disaster would pile on. As painful as it is to discover our limits, in Christ way, this is the time when we come to ourselves. It can be the point we decide that finding Christ way in our lives is better than going it alone.

Others may not understand or agree, but we realize we need Him in our heart and soul to find true peace and purpose for our lives. It's a risk. What if we are wrong, what if He doesn't show up?

Real questions. Yet, He always does show up. He moves in one way or another. He finds a way that gives us enough of what we need and a fresh start to become more than we have been. By His love we actually become better than what we thought was our best when on our own. Jesus waits for us ready, as He did with the woman to risk our everything for His everything.

- ***If you could have no fear of failing, shame, or guilt what relief would you ask of Jesus?***

### **I receive God's care and recovery when...**

#### **III. I humbly receive His care as my cure**

*But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease." Mark 5:33-34*

*This woman had suffered years of unrelenting physical pain. The nature of the culture she lived in also dictated that as long as any woman is in their menstrual cycle, they were considered physically and spiritually unclean. All contact with any one was forbidden and punishable by stoning. This typically lasted for a week for most women. For this woman it was for 12 years that she did not, could not belong to anyone. Imagine the deep sense of isolation, emptiness, and pain of not belonging. The woman was at the end of her own resources and attempts to control her wellbeing. So desperate, she risked all by slipping into the crowd so that she could touch Jesus robe. Hoping she could sneak away and not be noticed. But Jesus noticed and called attention to her, calling her out of the crowd. The woman came forward, told her story, already physically healed, but not yet fully cured. One word changed it all for her: "Daughter". In that one-word Jesus gave to her changed her life and her world forever. He was saying, "You are no longer alone, unwanted, too dirty or lost to God. You my precious child, my daughter".*

*In calling her daughter in public, Jesus healed the woman of her relationship with the people around her as well, they are all now your brothers and sisters, your family. You belong to them and they belong to you by the love of Christ, receive and be free. This woman now has an identity, she belongs to Christ, she is home and home with her family. Her healing is for all of our healing. His care is her cure. His care is our cure, yours, and mine cure for what most deeply ail us; do I matter, am I loved and valued, Yes! says abundantly clear, yes.*

- ***How could knowing that Jesus considers you his loved daughter or son bring healing to your past, present and future? Can you welcome His care for your cure this morning?***