

Sermon on Luke 8.45-48

Wednesday 20th September 2017

For the Mother's Union Wave of Prayer service

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In the short but powerful reading from the gospel according to Luke we hear of a woman who is in a terrible situation.

She is marginalised, set apart from society. Unwanted and unwelcomed.

Why?

Because she is seen as being unclean, a risk to the people she is related to and lived among.

We know that this was because basic hygiene, soap and running clean water were not available at that time and sadly are not available even today in some parts of the world.

Public health was and always will be a real concern and can result in a woman like this one being despised, rejected and helpless.

But she is not hopeless.

Why?

Because she has heard of the one who can heal. The one who works miracles. The one who brings new life to those who reach out to him.

What can she lose?

It is often when people feel helpless and that they have nothing to lose that they reach out for help. After all, what's the worst that can happen?

And she reaches out and touches the hem of Jesus' garment. Jesus feels her touch, knows someone has touched him and he asks who it is. This woman is healed, given a fresh start a new life, a way back to her family and friends.

Physical healing, emotional healing, spiritual healing. This is an image of the creator of the world bending down and touching the unclean and the unwanted and offering hope and love. And it is love above all else that shines through this story today.

The God of love calls us to join with him in responding to the needs of the world.

Today in our wave of prayer, we give thanks for all those who offer hope to others by living out their faith in Christ. Something we are called to do as individuals and as a group.

We pray that all who are considered unclean will be offered healthcare and be brought back into their families and communities. That advances is medical science and the sharing of knowledge will allow changes in attitudes and understanding of people's needs.

We thank God for all those who work tirelessly and faithfully to spread the Gospel message and to provide the basics of life and healthcare to others around the world.

May we always be aware of those in need of compassion and love and be willing to offer what we can in response.