#1 Going Public with Your Faith Luke 8:42-48

A LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTER

Luke 8:42 ... As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. ⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. ⁴⁵ "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." ⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." ⁴⁷ Then the woman, <u>seeing that she could not go unnoticed</u>, came trembling and fell at his feet. <u>In the presence of all the people</u>, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

A Desperate Woman ... A Life-Changing Touch ... A Puzzling Question ... A Defining Moment

WHY GO PUBLIC WITH YOUR FAITH?

1. AFFIRMATION From Jesus

<u>Matthew 10:32-33</u> Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

<u>Luke 12:8</u> Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

2. IMPACT On Others

<u>Mathew 5:16</u> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

3. <u>REWARD</u> In Heaven

<u>Matthew 5:11-12</u> Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Christian Baptism: the public act of being immersed in water by an individual who has professed faith in Jesus Christ. Acts 8:38-39

WHY BE BAPTIZED?

A. To <u>PUBLICLY</u> identify as a Christ-follower

B. To follow the example set by <u>JESUS</u> Himself

<u>Mark 1:9</u> It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

C. To follow in the footsteps of other <u>BELIEVERS</u>...

The disciples - Acts 2:31 The Samaritans - Acts 8:12,16 The Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:38-39 The Apostle Paul - Acts 9:18 Cornelius - Acts 10:47-48 Lydia – Acts 16:14-15 The Philippian Jailer - Acts 16:33 Crispus and the Corinthians - Acts 18:8 John's disciples - Acts 19:4-5

D. To give testimony of your <u>NEW LIFE</u> as a Christian.

<u>Romans 6:4</u> Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

E. Because Christ <u>COMMANDED</u> His Church to baptize new followers

<u>Matthew 28:19</u> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

F. To take your <u>NEXT STEP</u> as a follower of Christ and identify with The Body of Christ

<u>Acts 2:41</u> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

What if I was baptized as an infant?

Does someone have to be baptized in order to be saved? What about my children? When is my child old enough?

Is there something holding YOU back?

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