

1-2019

## He Had Aged Far Beyond His Years

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### Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "He Had Aged Far Beyond His Years" (2019). *Dr. Willmington's Personal Observations of the Bible*. 14.

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## **HE HAD AGED FAR BEYOND HIS YEARS (Luke 8:45, 46)**

### **SURVEY**

A woman who had suffered with internal bleeding for 12 years, being unable to be helped by her physicians, approaches Jesus in a crowd and by faith touches the hem of His garment, resulting in her immediate healing.

### **SIGNIFICANCE**

- This is the only miracle where the person in need touched Jesus first.
- It is the only time where Jesus uses the title "daughter." On a previous occasion He had referred to a paralytic who had been healed as "son" (Matt. 9:2).

### **SPIRITUAL TRUTHS**

- This poor woman's condition carried with it religious and social consequences as well as physical consequences. According to Lev. 15:19-30, she would have been considered unclean for twelve long years. Note also she had spent all her resources on her problem. Thus, she was pain-wracked, penniless, and prohibited from social gatherings. But then, we read, "*she ... hears of Jesus.*"
- Luke describes the aftermath of this healing as follows:  
  
*"And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me"* (Luke 8:45-46).
- The two statements of Jesus here point out two profound insights concerning His earthly ministry.
  1. His total dependence upon the Holy Spirit—Note his question, "*Who touched me?*" Even though Christ retained His divine attributes (His omnipresence, His omnipotence, His omniscience) upon coming to earth, He chose not to use them in an independent way, but depended upon the Holy Spirit to lead, advise, and empower Him. In other words, Jesus may not have known at that moment who touched him. A similar example can be seen later when he was asked concerning the date of the second coming.

His answer was: "*But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father*"

(Mark 13:32). (See also Matt. 4:1; John 5:19; Phil. 2:5-8).

2. The awful demands upon his physical body—Note his statement: "*Virtue is gone out of me.*" The Greek word for virtue here is *dunamis*, and refers to power or strength. How taxing it must have been upon his body to perform his mighty miracles.

A hint of this may be seen through a statement made by some Pharisees during a confrontation with Jesus. Note:

*"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am"*  
(John 8:56-58).

The point of the above is that Jesus apparently looked to be much older than He really was, being mistaken for nearly fifty (an advanced age back then) when in reality He had yet to celebrate His 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday! Caring for the sick **in** the world and, at the same time, carrying the sins **of** the world was exhausting labor indeed!