

*I desire to do your will, my God;
your law is within my heart. Psalm 40:7 (NIV)*

“Who Touched Me?!”

God uses our life circumstances to become transformed and conformed into the image of Christ. I am immensely challenged by Jesus’ example in **Luke 8:40-56**.

First, it’s important to remember who authored this letter. Luke, the physician, does an incredible job of setting up this story. Perhaps that is why I can relate so well to this book – because a fellow healthcare provider wrote it!

The context is an incredibly hectic day (or series of days) where Jesus calmed the weather, healed a demon-possessed man, raised a girl from the dead, and healed a woman with a 12-year bleeding disorder. Immediately prior to meeting the woman with a bleeding disorder, Jesus was being rushed to the home of Jarius because his daughter was deathly ill. Luke emphasizes the tension to hustle Jesus along to Jarius’ home immediately after returning from the boat trip to Gerasenes.

The scene is a crowded street where everyone was bumping into each other. Multiple versions of this text state that the crowds were “pressing in” on Jesus, and one version even says that Jesus was “almost crushed” by the crowd.

The crowds, including His disciples, seemed incensed about expediting Jesus’ journey to intervene in Jarius’ urgent family emergency. But along the way, a woman with a bleeding disorder touches Jesus, creating a sort of “distraction” from Jesus’ primary objective of healing Jarius’ daughter.

Luke notes that this woman’s “12 year” bleeding disorder was one where “no one could heal her.” Mark 5 says, “She suffered a great deal” and was “under the care of many doctors,” “spending all she had,” but “instead of getting better, she grew worse.” This lady had great faith, however. Mark notes that “when she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, ‘If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.’”

In a crowd that “pressed in around him” and “almost crushed him,” Jesus stops. “He turned around” and asked, “Who touched me?” Jesus does the one thing that seems incredibly irresponsible and even dangerous from a worldly perspective, stopping to have a conversation with the woman who touched him.

In a time of urgency and in a busy crowd, Jesus asks, “Who touched me?” EVERYONE was touching Him! Peter points out the obvious: “You see the people crowding against you ... and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’” “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.” But Jesus said, ‘Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.’”

Finally, the woman, who was clearly trying to go unnoticed, confesses that it was she who touched Jesus. Falling at His feet, she explains why she had touched Him and how she had been instantly healed. Jesus then said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

The reality is that the omniscient Jesus knew exactly what had happened. *And* He also knew that stopping would slow His progress toward meeting with the dying daughter of Jarius. Even so, He was that accessible – even to a woman that was unclean AND who, in fact, made Jesus unclean as well.

I am blown away by this passage, as it has so many applications to our day-to-day care for others. As busy as my days can be, I still must take time to responsively minister to others, as Jesus demonstrated. Jesus understood busy days, yet He remained a bright light and pointed everyone to give glory to God. How often do I whine because my schedule is packed, yet the one person who needs me the most seems like a distraction?

Second, Jesus was accessible. Even in very busy and repulsive circumstances, Jesus responded by healing this woman anyway. How can we be inspired to be *that* accessible and *that* vulnerable? I try to keep my office door open even when in the midst of important tasks. My cell number is readily available to anyone who needs it. Despite a busy schedule, I try to live in the moment when chatting with students, faculty, parents, and other leaders. But, would anyone mistake me for looking like Jesus in this area of my life? Perhaps this text also pushes you outside of your comfort zone as well.

God, please help me focus my eyes to see the great things you are doing globally and especially eternally. Please help me see beyond just the simple task(s) in front of me right now. May my time be transformed to look more like Christ in Luke 8.

Jeffrey A. Bates, Director
Yellow Springs, OH

Check out our new social media pages!

Links are provided at the end of this newsletter.



Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)



Samaritan's Purse is seeking to hire clinical pharmacists to serve with the **DART**, a roster of on-call staff members who respond at a moment's notice to disasters worldwide – serving as the hands and feet of Jesus in remote locations.



You can take a look at our recent work in this [video](#), and you can find more information and links to apply on our website.

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CPFI 2024 Annual Conference & National Student Retreat

Transforming Pharmacy Through Spiritual and Professional Renewal

"...Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind." Romans 12:2

Bonclarken Conference Center

500 Pine Drive, Flat Rock, NC, 28731

National Student Retreat: May 29 to June 2, 2024

Annual Conference: May 30 to June 2, 2024

Registration opens January 8, 2024

Early registration ends March 13, 2024

Registration closes April 15, 2024

(No silent auction this year. Next silent auction planned for 2025 conference.)

Schedule-at-a-glance

Full Program

Speakers

Pharmacist Registration

Student Pharmacist Registration

National Student Retreat Program



The banner features a large yellow ribbon on the left side. The CPFI logo is in the top right, with the text "Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International" and "Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy". The main title is "CPFI 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & NATIONAL STUDENT RETREAT" in bold blue letters. Below it is the quote "Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind." and "Romans 12:2". The phrase "Good News!" is written in a large, golden, cursive font. A yellow diagonal banner at the bottom right says "13.25 HOURS ACPE APPROVED CE AVAILABLE!".

CPFI Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International
Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

CPFI 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & NATIONAL STUDENT RETREAT

"Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind."
Romans 12:2

Good News!

Conference expenses paid by a generous member donor!*

*The cost of room, meals, and registration expenses will be paid for the first 100 pharmacists and 50 students by a generous CPFI member donor!
Travel and other expenses are not included.

To register and learn more visit: www.cphi.org/annual-meeting

13.25 HOURS ACPE APPROVED CE AVAILABLE!



Global Missions
Health Conference

Global Missions Health Conference 2024

Southeast Christian Church

920 Blankenbaker Parkway Louisville, KY 40243

November 7 to 9, 2024

CPFI will be an exhibitor at this event.

Register: <https://www.medicalmissions.com/events/gmhc-2024>

Access Archives for CPFI Publications

The Faith Script

Christianity & Pharmacy

National Student Council Newsletter

Join us for prayer!
Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 5:00 pm ET



The CPFI Past Presidents Committee was asked to implement a prayer ministry on behalf of CPFI. In March 2020, we started a weekly Prayer Meeting on Sunday evening at 5 p.m. ET, initially to pray about Covid-19 needs. **We are meeting monthly now on the third Sunday.** If you would like an invitation, e-mail Nena Lindrose at Office@cpfi.org. She will send a reminder e-mail with instructions on how to join and some suggested prayer concerns during the week prior to the meeting. We hope you will join us **Sunday, April 21, 2024** for our next session. By signing up you are only committing to participate when able and praying out loud is voluntary.
Fred Eckel, Director Emeritus

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your membership!

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