

Good evening ladies. Before I begin, let's pray

My teaching tonight is what it means to

I. Become a Daughter of God

I would venture to say that there isn't one person here tonight who knows what it's like to be a total and complete outcast, a leper, and completely isolated. We have all experienced times when we feel alone, or isolated, but we haven't experienced total isolation.

When I was a teenager I read the bestseller, *Papillon* by a Frenchman, Henri Charrier. Published in English in 1970, it was a semi auto biographical story about a man with a butterfly tattoo on his chest (hence the title), who in the 1930's was wrongly imprisoned for murder. Because the crime was gruesome and he had many escape attempts he was sent to Devil's Island off the coast of French Guiana, South America. The island was desolate and near the equator so there wasn't any respite from scorching sun and terrible thirst. He was placed in solitary confinement. He trapped cockroaches and added them to his gruel for protein and his water pot and chamber pot were

one in the same. He would strain to see a tiny fragment of light enter his sauna-like cell or to get a glimpse of another human being. His conditions were beyond what we can imagine. Completely isolated, totally outcast from all humanity, and expected to serve out a life sentence by quickly dying - all while proclaiming his innocence for what he was accused.

Tonight's Scripture is a story that comes to us in both Luke and Mark and also is about isolation and being an outcast. It may be very familiar to you or it may be something you've just skimmed through because it didn't have much meaning for you. It's the story of the woman with the issue of blood.

You can open your Bibles to Mark 5 and beginning in v 25:

*Mark 5: 25-34 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, **26** and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. **27** She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. **28** For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." **29** And*

*immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. **30** And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" **31** And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" **32** And he looked around to see who had done it. **33** But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. **34** And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."*

Everything she touched was unclean! Wherever she sat or layed down was unclean. This woman lived for 12 years as a rejected outcast, seen by her whole community as unclean because of her bleeding, living on the fringe, not able to go into the sanctuary, not able to live with other people, spending all her money and even suffering under the hands of many physicians. She was an outcast. Imagine living your life knowing that whatever you touch is polluted.

And then, with one touch of His garment, with great faith in a Great God, she was transformed! She was made whole, grafted back into her own community, but more importantly grafted into the family of God. She was given a new identity: He called her, "Daughter."

Let's dig into this woman's life a little more so we can more fully understand her status under the law and the transformation she underwent because of Jesus, the Christ. Leviticus 12:4 tells us what was prescribed for menstruating women, ie, normal bleeding: "*She shall not touch anything holy, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are completed.*"

Later in 15:25 - 30 we are told what a woman in her condition would go through:

*"If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, not at the time of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond the time of her impurity, all the days of the discharge she shall continue in uncleanness. As in the days of her impurity, she shall be unclean.**26** Every bed on which she lies, all the days of her discharge, shall be to her as the bed of her impurity. And everything on which she sits shall*

*be unclean, as in the uncleanness of her menstrual impurity. **27** And whoever touches these things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening. **28** But if she is cleansed of her discharge, she shall count for herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean. **29** And on the eighth day she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons and bring them to the priest, to the entrance of the tent of meeting. **30** And the priest shall use one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her before the Lord for her unclean discharge.”*

Imagine her agony! Even if she stopped bleeding for a day or two, she was not able to come back into her community until after the seventh day. Her hope might grow if her bleeding stopped but then her despair would return as soon as the bleeding returned. Now, try and imagine this going on for years!

Leading up to this incredible healing, Jesus had been very busy. Luke describes in a broader view of all that Jesus was doing, and Mark

parallels this story of the bleeding woman and the healing of Jairus' daughter.

- The very beginning of Luke describes Jesus' followers of whom many were women; Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Suzanna
- In Luke 8:4 we read about the parable of the sower
- And then Jesus tells the disciples the purpose of the parables beginning at Luke 8:9
- Luke 8:16 is when Jesus exhorts us to not hide our light under a jar
- In Luke 8:19 Jesus' mother and brothers came to him but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told they were standing outside desiring to see him.
- Practically everyone remembers Jesus calming the storm in Luke 8:22 - when the disciples say, "wake up, we are perishing." More importantly they marvel at Jesus' power when He calms the storm.
- Beginning in both Mark 5:1 and Luke 8:26 Jesus heals a man with a demon and Legion is cast into the pigs

- Then in Mark 5:21 and Luke 8:42b is our Scripture when Jesus heals the woman with the issue of blood
- And finally the end of both chapters is Jesus heals Jairus's daughter

There are some things I want to draw to your attention in these passages leading up to the bleeding woman and Jairus' daughter, pointing the way for us. The first is that the parables teach us about faith, which the desperate, bleeding woman has plenty of. Jesus also redefines family when He says, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the Word of God and do it." And Jesus calls the outcast daughter. Then, Luke 8:22 shows us that Jesus has power that we can't begin to comprehend over nature when he commands the storm to cease and over demons who begged Him not to command them into the abyss. We are being led to the conclusion of the chapter when in this great power He heals the woman with the issue of blood and then raises Jairus' daughter from the dead.

Isn't it interesting that although many people were pressing up against Jesus in the crowd, it was when the bleeding woman touched Him that

He stopped and asked, "Who touched my garment?" Obviously many people were physically touching Him, but it was the bleeding woman who came in desperate faith that caused Him to stop. She knew she shouldn't touch Him because she would pollute whatever she touched. But in her desperation she saw Him as her only hope. So against all the laws and with great faith that He would heal her, she touched just the hem of His garment. And no one goes unnoticed in the presence of Jesus. "Who touched me?" was not for his benefit but for hers. Caught, she confesses and then proclaims the truth that He is already aware of - that she is healed and therefore has been made clean.

"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." Can you imagine her relief? She can finally re-enter life; her life, her community. She can finally go and worship at the synagogue or the temple. She is no longer unclean. She has been transformed and all because of Jesus! AND she is now God's daughter.

We also have been given a new identity. We are also daughters. We are His daughters.

Please ask yourself, "Do I believe Jesus is the best answer to my current, difficult situation?"

For the rest of this teaching we will be talking about what it means to be a Daughter of God: both the benefits we receive and the responsibilities we bear.

Let's start with the:

II Benefits of Being a Daughter of God

All of Scripture can be looked at as the Father's letter to His children. Almost all of it applies to everyone, but there are significant Scriptures addressed only to His daughters. (You'll find some of those important passages on the handout.) When I read those words addressed specifically to me, His daughter, I can be struck by all the do's and don'ts. And that can feel overwhelming, but as I study and pray, I can also see my Father's tender love for His daughter. Throughout all of Scripture, My Father shows His great love for me by saving me, revealing Himself to me, teaching me, instructing me, caring for me, providing for me, challenging me, encouraging me, correcting me, empowering me, and most importantly, transforming into a life-giver

to serve in His Kingdom. There are so many benefits to living in the Father's house.

- I am chosen to be His daughter (*Eph 1:4-5 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*)
- As His daughter, He is my Forever Father (*Isaiah 9:6 and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father*),
- He will never forsake me (*Deuteronomy 31:8 It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.*")
- As His daughter, I have access to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ (*Eph 3:11b-12 in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom*

we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.)

And Access is a privilege (Hebrews 10:21-23 says "and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.)

- *I have a family (Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God)*

- *I am loved (1 John 4:16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.)*

- I am an heir (*Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him*)

- I have security and assurance (*Rom 8:38-39 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*)

- As His daughter, I have authority (*Matthew 18:18-20 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there*

am I among them.”)

- I am blessed (*Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who [He] has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*)

- I am empowered for a holy and blameless living (*Eph 1:4, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*

13-14 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.)

- As His daughter, I am a saint.

Now if you're like most people you have a fairly solid definition of "saint" in your head. The dictionary says a saint is a person

acknowledged as holy, or virtuous; kind, patient. It's that very holy person who was martyred for their belief, or the elderly woman you saw in church as a little girl who never did anything wrong and always was kind to you. She was beyond good or nice, she was a saint. But I am here to remind you that anyone who is in relationship with the living God, believes in the justifying work of Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is a saint. I hope many of you were able to attend Carla's class based on Saints, Sufferers, and Sinners because we walked through glorious history and Scripture pointing out to us that as daughters of God we are His saints. "Saint" is our identity because it is the identity given to us by God.

"We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

And just from Proverbs 31, directed specifically to women, because of Christ I add:

- I am seen as a precious jewel
- I am trusted
- I do good and not harm
- I am clothed in strength and dignity
- I speak wisdom
- I am kind
- I am blessed

Ask yourself: Do I regularly remind myself of all my benefits because of who I am in Christ?

Next, let's talk about our

III Responsibilities of Being a Daughter of God

A few years back, many of us went together through *Transformed: Life-taker to life-giver* by Karen Hodge and Susan Hunt. That book gave us a gospel-centered study on Eve, Sarah, and Mary, Jesus'

mother. It helped us to think Biblically so that we can live Covenantally.

- They defined thinking Biblically as when we study Scripture we should discover Jesus in all Scripture by seeing the unified message of redemption that unfolds throughout the Bible.

and

- Living Covenantally challenges us to apply the message of grace so that our lives are transformed by God's grace.

Praise God! By His grace, we are being transformed! As I said before, all Scripture is applicable to everyone but His words to women have specific, unique ways that women further the Kingdom of God. Within those lines of Scripture, OUR lines, are what He wants us to do and not do. As His daughters, we have received this miraculous gift of eternal salvation and He calls us to change. He calls us to be transformed from the old self to His cleansed daughters. We are called out of darkness into His marvelous light! With all these privileges and blessings given to us by God, come our personal responsibilities. Daughters, we are

transformed - but, transformed from what to what?

- From wickedly unrighteous to righteous saint
- From darkness to light
- From our old selves to our new selves
- From selfishness to selflessness
- From life-takers to life-givers
 - Not just by birthing
 - But with our words and deeds
 - With our relationships
 - What we do is a consequence of who we are in Christ and we obey because God loves us and we want to please Him as His daughters, not to **get** Him to love us.

As Daughters, we are changed to life-givers. As His daughters, we are uniquely made to give life. Giving birth is a beautiful picture of a life-giver, but the ultimate demonstration of life-giver is when the Life of Christ fills us and overflows onto our circumstances and outward

into our relationships. Our redemptive calling as women transcends age, life-season, marital status, and time and place in history. What was true for women then is true for us now. And because I am a Daughter of God, I am responsible to respond to His call for my transformation.

As His Daughters, we respond by

- Knowing God's Word by reading His Word
 - We should learn as much as we can about what the Word teaches about God and ourselves, as well as His redemptive plan for the world.
- We respond By Placing the word of God in our hearts
 - The truth of Scripture should become part of our thought life so that we can be obedient to His Word
 - When we're obedient daughters, we can stand firm and not waiver from the truth of the Gospel
 - Paul gives us this warning in *1 Corinthians 15:58*
Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable,

always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

- If our confidence in the Gospel and the inerrant Word of God waivers, we are sure to abandon His ways to the ways of the world. Our convictions will erode and eventually we will adopt worldly standards.
- If we think there are no eternal ramifications or consequences of what we do in this life and water down our convictions to have a palatable presentation, the motivation for holy living is gone and we will abandon our eternal responsibilities.
 - Romans 12:2 says, *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*
- We have a responsibility to Demonstrate God’s Word in our lives

- As daughters, we have a God-given calling for Christian action (Eph 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*)
- And to live our lives for God
 - By being holy (1 Peter 1:15-16 *but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*)
 - By being doers of the Word. As our James study, Steadfast, has reminded us so richly, what we know and what we think should be lived out in our actions.

Be a Doer!
- Daughters must walk with godly purpose (Jeremiah 32:19 *great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve.*)
 - Proclaiming God's Word to Others
- Daughters! The message of God's Word needs to be shared with a needy world. (Matthew 28:19-20a *Go therefore and*

make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

- Which also includes speaking truth and love to others
- God calls us to trust in God and His Word, not people

(Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.)

We are responsible for knowing God's Word, demonstrating God's Word, proclaiming God's Word, as we live for God by trusting in Him.

Ask yourself: Do I see the spiritual disciplines as a good responsibility?

Conclusion:

Anne taught on 1 Timothy 5:3-16 in April last year. This scripture talks about widows, which doesn't apply to very many of us yet, but more importantly for us than the qualifications of widowhood is the many

qualities of a godly woman leading up to her being “an approved widow,” or in other words, what we should be doing now that we are daughters of God. We are to:

- Show godliness to our own household
- Take care of parents
- set our hope on God and continue in supplications and prayers night and day,
- have a reputation for good works
- bring up children,
- show hospitality
- wash the feet of the saints
- care for the afflicted
- Be devoted to every good work
- Marry and bear children
- manage our households
- and give the adversary no occasion for slander

That is a long list of good works that women, chosen by God to be daughters of God, are called to do, and please note that of the

qualities listed, nine are towards others. These are how we serve as life-giving daughters in His Kingdom. Cindy will teach us tomorrow what being a Sister in Christ looks like. (I can't wait to sit under her teaching.) Although not everyone is called to do or be everything on the list, we are all called to grow in godliness and spiritual maturity by doing what God has called us to on the list. Maturity, it seems to me, is being transformed from my old, dead self to the image of Christ - step by step from the instant of salvation until my final breath. It's an ongoing, never ending, two steps forward - often one step back, hilltop and valley timeline until I meet Him face to face.

I am reminded of a wonderful example Daniel gave us many years ago during a sermon and I'm paraphrasing. He likened our sanctification, our transformation, to being on an ocean liner. That ship is glory bound because of our belief in the atoning death of Jesus Christ and His saving grace. However, there are many decks on that ship and two sides to it. You may be walking forward on the starboard side or backwards on the port side. I may be on the bottom deck that smells of diesel oil and you may be on the Lido deck in beautiful sunlight and ocean sea breezes - or anywhere in between. But no matter where we

are on the great ship, we are always moving forward because the ship is moving forward. We are always being transformed, because we are on the SS Jesus (that last bit is me, not Daniel)

How am I transformed? By the ultimate truth found in the Word of God that renews my mind.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 says "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

It is not conforming to this world through pursuit of selfish desires such as vast amounts of leisure, ungodly pleasure, succumbing to peer pressure, or fear of man. It means not taking but giving, not hindering but helping, not pursuing my own agenda but pursuing God's glory.

That is maturity. God moves us from darkness to light, from condemned to declared righteous, from not being His people to being His people, from orphan to heir. From orphan to daughter. We are His daughters.

Will the worship team rejoin us?

Henri Cherrier escaped his torment on Devil's Island. In fact, it is the fascinating recounting of his daring attempts, his failures and ultimate successes that made the story a bestseller and a movie. But he was recaptured and reimprisoned countless times. Finally he made his way to Venezuela where he lived out his remaining years. As far as I know, he was never declared innocent under French law. However, the woman with the issue of blood, and in fact you and me - we ARE declared righteous and not by a high court but by THE Highest Court. We have been made daughters, heirs, and saints, and we have been transferred from outside the family of God into the family of God and grafted into this community. And by God's grace we are transformed more and more to the image of Christ Jesus.

Here are some questions to ask ourselves:

- Am I being a life-giver or a life-taker? Or put another way: Am I being a helper or a hinderer?
- Is God's glory my purpose rather than my own agenda and convenience?
- Do I see the practical/unique ways that women further the Kingdom of God that men are either not called to do or are ill-designed to do?

Thank you.