

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

ENCOUNTER

Know Your Surroundings

Mark 5.25-34

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³² He looked all around to see who had done it. **Mark 5.30-32**

At this point in Mark 5, we see Jesus moving through the crowd after just having been approached by Jairus, a temple leader, with a desperate plea to heal his daughter. He feels power leave him, and takes the time to turn around to see who had touched him. He then takes time to listen to the woman's entire story.

Consider if Jesus had gone straight to heal Jairus' daughter instead of taking the time to visit with the hemorrhaging woman. Awareness of His ministry would have greatly increased with this public miracle.

- How does paying **attention** and being aware of our surroundings increase our opportunities for service?
- How could attention be described as a "spiritual practice?"
- What are the things in your life that get the most attention?
- Consider and discuss how all service begins with attention.

Compassion can be described as curiosity without assumptions. As Jon said, it is what can occur when we take the time to listen and wonder what burdens others are carrying with "holy awe." In a show of compassion, Jesus takes the time to listen to the woman's story after He has healed her.

- How can taking the time to stop and listen to others cause you to be less judgmental of them?
- In what situations are you least likely to allow yourself to be interrupted by others' crises?
- What can help you see interruptions as sacred moments of opportunity?

Jesus uses his **power** to heal and to make God's love visible and real. Power can be described as the ability to get something done. Using our own power to help others can occur when we first take the time to pay attention, and then consider what burdens others may be carrying.

- Consider how Jesus notices the woman, has compassion on her, and then uses His ability to heal her.
- What power might you have to heal?
- Where might God be calling you to "welcome an interruption" and repair what may be broken?

Heavenly Father, thank you for the multiple layers in this story which show us the depth of Jesus' patience, compassion, and love. Help us to pay better attention to our surroundings and see the interruptions in our lives as sacred moments where you might be calling us to act within our power. Amen.