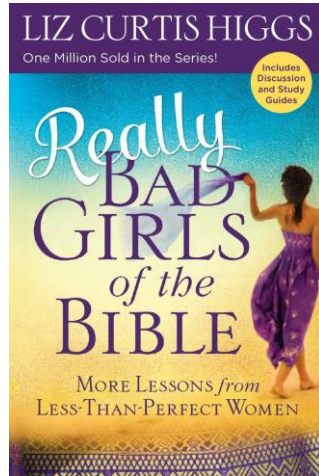


Word by Word with Liz Curtis Higgs on the Faith Radio Network

Bible Study Guide for June 23-24, 2018 | The Bleeding Woman

from *Really Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs



1. In what circumstances have you personally experienced physical suffering, as the Bleeding Woman did? What do Romans 5:3-4 and 1 Peter 2:19 tell us about the (often unexpected) benefits of suffering? What have you learned from your pain? According to Matthew 4:24, what are some of the human conditions Jesus healed? What other infirmities does Matthew 15:30 add to that list? And what was the result of those healings, as stated in Matthew 15:31? According to Psalm 77:11-14, God has always been in the miracle business. How would you define a miracle? How did Jesus heal people in the following verses: Luke 5:12-13; Mark 7:32-35; John 9:1-3, 6-7? Is it the *how* or the *who* that heals us? Why is that so?
2. Jesus had no qualms about touching those who were unclean, and we are called to follow his example. What do Acts 10:28 and Galatians 6:2 teach us about how we're to treat others? Read Mark 5:27-28. Why do you suppose the Bleeding Woman thought merely touching him would be sufficient for her healing? And why touch his garment rather than, say, his bare hand? Mark 5:29 reveals what happened next. What is the significance of this dramatic change taking place immediately?
3. The Bleeding Woman wasn't the only one who knew that something had happened to her in that moment. According to Mark 5:30, who else knew, and how soon did he realize it? The disciples didn't understand the question the Lord asked, but you can be sure she did! In Mark 5:32, we learn that Jesus kept looking around for her. Despite her trepidation, she threw herself at his feet, as we read in Mark 5:33. Why might she have been afraid? What do you imagine compelled her to do it anyway?

4. It's clear that Jesus wanted everyone to hear this woman's testimony. What were the possible benefits for the woman? For the Lord? For the community? For the disciples? Romans 1:16 explains why we share the whole truth, and 1 John 5:11-12 explains what we tell people about God. If you've heard someone share a testimony of his or her faith experience, what effect did it have on your own spiritual life? No matter how dramatic or commonplace you think your own testimony may be, write a three-sentence story of how you came to know Christ—or had a life-changing experience with him at some point in your Christian walk. Who might need to hear your story this week?
5. In the Bleeding Woman's story—in all our stories—it comes down to faith, to what we believe and how far we are willing to go to demonstrate our faith in Christ. How do you reconcile the words of Jesus in Mark 11:22-24 and miraculous stories like the Bleeding Woman's healing with your own day-to-day experience of people praying for healing, yet not being healed? Does it challenge your faith? If doubts have surfaced, how has God answered them and assured you of his love in any circumstance? And how might Hebrews 13:8 encourage you? Mark 5:34 records Jesus' final words to this woman. Why do you think he honored her faith, instead of simply saying, "God has healed you"?
6. What's the most important lesson you learned from the miraculous story of the Bleeding Woman?