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Greetings,

I hope you find this devotional helpful in your daily journey.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

## Reflection: Example

Greetings:

In the gospel of Mark 5:24b-34, we hear the story of a woman who has suffered for many years with some type of bleeding. Because of this she would be considered cut off from God, and those in her community would stay away from her so they would not become unclean. Given this situation, her affliction would be on multiple levels. In the narrative she then reaches out to Jesus and touches him. Immediately, she is healed. What is not apparent in the description is that she literally touches the hem of his garment - it is the fringe of Jesus' prayer shawl. The fringe is particularly the sign of God's presence - something the Jewish Community is taught to not mess with. In addition, touching a person of the opposite gender (unless it was your spouse) was taboo. Her reaction of not wanting to come forward and admit that she touched him was quite real, but it also speaks of her desperation. I suspect to her surprise, as well as the disciples', Je-

sus' response is not one of rebuke, rather one of healing. It shows God's intent through Christ's actions - restoring her body, reconnecting her to the community and giving her peace.

It is this display of compassion that I believe we should keep in mind when we think of God. There are times in most of our lives when we might feel like this woman: alone, in need, and searching for an answer. Her faith made her reach out and believe that God would in fact respond to her. So too, we might find ourselves in difficult circumstances. So the question becomes, where do we turn at that moment? Live the rest of our lives in despair, and disbelief? Or do we follow this woman's example, which took a long time to discover, but in the end she was both restored and commended. I am sure it was not an easy journey, but worth it in the end. May her life, like so many women in the Bible, guide you to ever deepening sense of God's presence.

Grace and peace, Pastor Dan

# Upcoming Dates

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Monday: Bounty Food Bank: 9 am to Noon, Volunteers welcome.

Friday: *Bounty Food Bank* needs Volunteers every Friday for food pickup and storage help. Call 253-335-7860.

Next Sunday: Worship Service 11:00

Monthly

1st Saturday: Bethany Garden Club - 11:30 a.m.

2nd Thursday: Finance/Trustees - 6 p.m./7 p.m.

2nd Saturday: Food Bank Board Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Food Bank Open - 1:00 p.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

**May**

18th - Ad Council 11 a.m. - this coming Saturday

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## Bounty Food Bank

Consider adding an item to your food bank donation. Also - We are always needing plastic bags - So, if you shop where they still give out plastic bags, the food bank would love to take them off your hands.

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Please keep in your prayers...

Elaine & Jerry Ramsey

Liz Best

Bill & Gayle Rocheleau

Mary Egeland

Marjorie Leppard & Bob

Rev. Barbara Brown

Danielle - and family

Anderson-Gammel family

Judy Egan & her family

Tonya Dean

James & Jenifer Angus

Laura Tippie

Please continue to keep our United Methodist church in your prayers, as well as the upcoming Annual Conference starting June 6th.