

Permission Granted

My Mother Taught Me About...

1. My Mother taught me about **ANTICIPATION...**
"Just wait until your father gets home."
2. My Mother taught me about **RECEIVING....**
"You are going to get it when we get home!"
3. My Mother taught me to **MEET A CHALLENGE...**
"What were you thinking? Answer me when I talk to you! Don't talk back to me!"
4. My Mother taught me **LOGIC...**
"If you fall out off that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
5. My Mother taught me **MEDICAL SCIENCE...**
"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."
6. My Mother taught me **HUMOR...**
"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
7. My Mother taught me about **WISDOM OF AGE...**
"When you get to be my age, you will understand."

Little Girl With Mom

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette hair.

She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?"

Her mother replied "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then asked, "Momma, how come all of grandma's hairs are white?"

Mother May I

There is a game that we used to play as a kid that I'm sure most of you are familiar with, it's called, "Mother May May I." One player, plays the "mother" or "father". The other players are the "children". To begin the game, the mother or father stands at one end of a room, while all the children line up at the other end. The children take turns asking "Mother/Father, may I _____?" and makes a movement suggestion. For example, one might ask, "Mother, may I take five steps forward?" The mother/father either replies "Yes, you may" or "No, you may not do that, but you may _____ instead" and inserts his/her own suggestion. The players usually

move closer to the mother/father but are sometimes led farther away. Even if the mother/father makes an unfavorable suggestion, the child must still perform it. The first of the children to reach the location of the mother/father wins the game. That child then becomes the mother/father himself, the original mother/father becomes a child, and a new round begins.

I'm not sure if this game wasn't somewhat created around the perception that many people have of God. Father May I would be a better title of the game. Their perception of Him drives them backward and ever so cautiously forward, never knowing what God's delight is.

The purpose of Christ

There is a message that underlines anything and everything that Jesus preaches or teaches, and it is this message:

There is a curse on this earth, a curse that creates sadness, disaster, pain and sickness that eventually leads to death. We are living in a dying world. We all face the inescapable fact that we will see death. To live with death is part of living in this world. Even Jesus groaned in His spirit and was troubled and wept at Lazarus' death because of this very thing. (John 11:33-38)

Jesus hated the curse that was upon this earth. It moved Him to tears. It moved Him deeply because He could see the pain and sorrow that sin had brought into this world. It was never God's plan for this earth to suffer like it has. This world was created as a place where man and God could commune and dwell together. But the sin of man brought a brokenness into this world and into our lives.

When Jesus came into this world He brought with Him a power that was not limited nor inhibited because of the sin that reigned. Jesus came to reverse the curse. He came to demonstrate the Fathers desire for reinstating relationship with man. Jesus brought with Him the demonstration of His Fathers love by healing the diseased and broken lives of men and women. These acts of mercy was an example of what He wanted to do also in the hearts of mankind.

When Jesus came to this earth, He came to establish another world, to reverse the curse. His plan was to deposit the potential of a world of life here on this earth. In heaven there is a joy, peace and many other virtues that live to it's fullest extent without any inhibiting factors. It is full of life! But Jesus desired to bring to this earth the power of heaven, He called it the **Kingdom of God**.

Jesus leads the way as an example of how to reverse the curse of death, the Bible says that He holds in His hands **the keys of death and hell (Rev. 1:18)**. This same Jesus who stood and wept with Mary at the grave of Lazarus was the same One who said to Martha,

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

Do You Believe This?

I really do think we do. We struggle with the reality of what Christ has done for us and we continue to look for permission to move toward God. We are challenged with the greatness of our God and question our own significance in the world He has placed us in.

"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?"

Psalm 8:3-4

Somehow we entertain so many more reasons why God wouldn't want us to approach Him or have relationship with Him. Why is that? But Peter tells us something that is hard for us to grasp.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

I Peter 2:9

There is something about Peter's statement here that challenges us. He doesn't let us off the hook with all the crazy thoughts of worthlessness and rejection. He puts before us an observation and not an obligation, this is who we are or have the capability to become if we will believe. It's all there,

- The special need of being chosen,
- The special call of royalty and positioned in priesthood
- The special designation of a holy nation
- The special connection of a people belonging to God
- All so we can praise him
- Why, because he has called us out of darkness...into HIS Wonderful Light!

Illustration: Carol and I recently looked at some old footage of our girls when they were very small. We were reminded of a phrase that they all went through when we asked them to do something and it didn't get done, somehow it was passed down from one child to the next the statement, "I sagot." Of course it was a statement meaning, "I forgot," but it was one of an excuse that we had to break in each one of them to teach them to be responsible.

There are terms that those who have put their confidence in Jesus as the resurrection and life, who believes they will live even though they die, and according to I Peter 2:9, who believe that God has called us out of darkness into His *Marvelous* light...not just light but a **marvelous light**.

See, we use words today, so much at random, that we lose their very meaning. What is sad is that many English words used to describe God's greatness, like **marvelous, awesome and wonderful** are a few that almost always describes God.

- Marvelous- "full of marvel"
- Awesome- "full of awe"
- Wonderful- "full of wonder"

When Peter says that you and I have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light, he is using a very powerful word to communicate the greatness of God's nature. God is absolute light. In Him there is no darkness. And He has called each one of us out of darkness...but

not just out of darkness, but into HIS MARVELOUS light. **We are not just called to a life without sin, it is a life with absolute light.** If you are unaware of God's Marvelous light you will only be seeing Him as a disgruntled school master expecting and waiting to correct your lack of focus. But if you see Him with a marvelous light, sin is not the focus, God is!

The simplicity I have come to find in the grander of God is that I have to give myself permission to come to Him, to believe in Him, to be called of Him. God can and will do no more, the rest remains with you...will you believe. I believe that you have to give yourself permission to believe God for what He says He will do...that He will do!

I. **Give Yourself Permission To Consider- (Curious)**

In Matthew 9, Jesus was beginning to have a very busy day. He and His disciples had just spent the day before in ministry to all kinds of people and the night before attempting to fight a storm until they woke Jesus up, to which Jesus calmed the sea. They landed on the other side, in the region of Gadarenes near a grave yard or tombs. Two wild men are there to which Jesus delivers them of legions of demons and they came back, across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum. There, after their arrival, His day is no less busy with all the demands for His attention. Two in particular are found here in Matthew 9:18-26. Jesus was dealing with John's disciples who had questions about fasting.

"While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples."

Matthew 9:18-19

Now picture this in your mind, (Matthew 9:14-17). There are a few of the prophet John's disciples that Jesus is having a discussion with. Jesus did not feel rivaled because of them nor was He against His cousin in anyway. As a matter of fact, Jesus recognized John's prophetic role more than John realized his own role. But John had obviously trained his young followers about the importance of fasting. I believe John's ability to stay focused and fulfilling his God sent role, "...the one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord.", (Matthew 3:3), was because of his commitment to fasting and he demanded it of those who followed him.

Anyways, fasting obviously was important to John's disciples. They were wondering why Jesus' disciples didn't fast because even the Pharisees fasted, why didn't they? There are so many things that we can get wrapped up in and miss the miracle of God. It is interesting how many things, Biblical things become an issue, especially in a church that believes on the Word of God. But at this point in the scripture, John's disciples and Jesus get interrupted. Isn't it interesting that there are many people who refuse to allow their doctrine to be interrupted by an opportunity to heal someone. Sometimes we confuse our delight in our interest of God and His Word and call it the Spirit of the Lord. Here, Jesus refused to miss an opportunity to serve...not teach.

"While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples."

Matthew 9:18-19

Mark and Luke say that his name was Jairus, and that he was a ruler of the synagogue; that is, one of the elders to whom was committed the care of the synagogue.

It says that Jairus fell down before Jesus and “worshiped” Him. He expressed a profound regard and respect for Him. He cries out to Jesus that his daughter, and Luke records that he says his only daughter, who is twelve years old was at the point of death and later someone tells him that she had passed away while Jesus was on his way.

Here we see a man who is not ashamed of his opinion of Christ. His need at the time demanded that he pull out all the stops and just get to the bottom line. He wasn't concerned with the public opinion of him. He didn't care if it threatened his job. He wasn't concerned if someone might disagree with him. He knew this to be a fact. If Jesus would place his hand on his daughter...she would live! He accepted that as a fact and there was nothing else to learn. The excitement there must have been in his heart when Jesus stood up and followed him toward his house. But there was another interruption.

“Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.” Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed from that moment.

Matthew 9:20-22

In just a matter of an hour or so, Jesus is going to be involved in two of the most opposite connections in His ministry. He is headed toward Jairus home, a synagogue ruler who had come to kneel at Jesus' feet and pleaded with Him to come and pray for his dead daughter to be healed. Jesus was walking with him when this woman touched Jesus.

I. Give Yourself Permission To Consider

II. Give Yourself Permission To Personalize-

- What kind of God is He?
- What kind of person am I?
- What Kind of person can I be?

Two Opposite People At The Feet of Jesus!

Jarius	Woman
His girl was healthy for 12 yr. then died	She had been ill 12yrs. and was continuing to decline
He was a well know Jewish man	She was an anonymous woman of no special notoriety
He was a Jewish leader in the Temple	She was a nobody, unclean, and restricted from the Temple
His plea was made in public	Her plea was made in private
He came pleading for his daughter	She came pleading for her own need
Everyone knew of his situation	Only Jesus knew of her situation
The Jewish man's daughter was healed	The woman was healed in public

The woman had a blood disease that was by law made her unclean, (Leviticus 15:25). She could not touch or be touch according to this law. Because she was ceremonially unclean, she would be condemned for touching Jesus or even being in a pressing crowd, she wanted to do this secretly. She obviously was regarded as incurable since she only touched the hem of his clothing. For twelve years, (12), she had been troubled with this sickness. Obviously she was constantly battling with fatigue, ups and downs emotionally, trying to find strength, trying to maintain a normal life in an unhealthy body. She was vary familiar with fever, hunger, sleeplessness, worry, rejection and abandonment.

The Intervarsity Press Commentary has an interesting insight to this situation in a commentary for Matthew 9 called “Embracing Our Brokenness.”

“Her ailment probably had kept her from marriage if it started at puberty, and almost surely would have led to divorce if it began after she was married (which would have been within a few years after puberty), since intercourse was prohibited under such circumstances (Lev 18:19) and childlessness normally led to divorce (Keener 1991a:75). Singleness is difficult for many people in Western society, but to be an unmarriageable woman in first-century Jewish Palestine must have often been terrifying. The stigma of childlessness (compare Lk 1:24-25), the pain of feeling “left over” and the dilemma of being unable to earn an income yet having neither husband nor children for long-term support would have made this woman's condition seem almost unbearable.”

We get the picture. The hopeless situation that she was in. Somehow, somewhere in her mind she thought, “I've tried everything. I've met every doctor and I've attempted all kinds of different remedies, but the way it looks to me, if He touches everyone and they get healed, what if I touch Him...why bother Him, just go get it!” And she did, Jesus was turning His attention to Jairus' daughter and something happened. Something left His body and something changed in her body! Mark tells the story like this...

“She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.”

Mark 5:26

Three Observations

1. She Suffered A Great Deal From Those Who Should Be Helping

Life doesn't turn out the way you would hope...even from those you have the most trust in. Here is a sad commentary on a woman who had no choice in the matter. **She suffered a great deal, not because of the sickness but because of all the cures!** She came to Jesus suffering.

2. She Spent All She Had

There was no more hope because there was no more means of recovery. Not only had she paid all of those who created “great” suffering in her life, but she couldn't pay them anymore. It is interesting that we pay people for our suffering. Just like blood letting was thought of as a cure in the 18th century, today we may

be paying for our own suffering...losing all we have. It may be spent in the cost of insurance not just the doctors. But she came to Jesus with sickness.

3. She Was Growing Worse

Everything was going down hill. She wasn't wanting her life back, she just wanted a life! She was not ready to die. She was not ready to quit. This is a reason why so many people get caught up in so many ridiculous cults and crimes. They don't want to lay down and quit, but things are getting worse. Things have no hope. Her life was full of suffering because of those who should be helping her. Her life was completely impoverished because of all the things she had attempted to exchange for the hope of something better. But she came to Jesus with nothing.

“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.”

Mark 5:27-28

Look What She Did

1. She Heard
2. She Came
3. She Touched

Why did she touch Him? Because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.”

In Luke 8:43-46, this story is illuminated even more by Jesus saying, “Who touched me?” And Peter responded, “The people are crowding and pressing against you everywhere.” Jesus responded, “No, someone touched me because power has gone out of me.”

Look What Happened

“Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.”

Mark 5:29

1. Immediately her bleeding stopped
2. Immediately there was a bondage of suffering in her body that she had had for years totally left her...she felt in her body:

Felt/knew- ginōskō- 1097

1. **to learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of perceive, feel**
 - a) to become known
2. **to know, understand, perceive, have knowledge of**
 - a) to understand
 - b) to know

We use the word feel or felt very freely. When we read, “she felt...” we believe she “felt” pain had left her body. But that's not what it says. The Greek word used here is *ginosko*, to know through learning, experiencing or perceiving. She

came to an understanding the moment she touched Jesus' robe. It would have been just as easy for Matthew to say, "She had no more pain" or "pain left her body, but he didn't. He said, "**she felt, (ginosko, came to an understanding or knowledge) in her body that she was "freed" from her suffering.**"

Freed/healed- iaomai- 2309 to cure, heal and make whole

I believe what she experienced was the ultimate healing. She did not experience just the absence of pain but she was ultimately made aware of or was given the knowledge that all this, the mental suffering, the financial crisis and the hopeless future had left her body and her life.

- The trauma that she had endured at the hands of the doctors, all the suffering and bad memories were no longer going to be a part of her DNA and mental experience.
- The financial poverty that she had ended up in would no longer rule her mind that she would be homeless, an outcast, a rejected individual of society. She knew in a moment that the healing that took place in her body reconnected her back into society and into family as it should be.
- The idea or sensation that life was only going to continue to get worse, the hopelessness, the constant battle of how she will wake up the next day exhausted, emotionally unstable, all of these things, in one moment she knew...I'm free from this suffering!
- It was a healing of the mind and memories of sufferings of the past
- It was a healing of the financial and crisis of the present
- It was a healing of the on going declining sickness of the future.
- She was healed T-n-T: through and through!

Her Response

"Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people. She told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed."

Luke 8:47

She had been caught. Wouldn't it be great to be caught having faith in God? It is interesting that Jesus was not going to let her off the hook. I'm not sure what the trembling was all about, if it was fear of being rejected or the power of Christ was still surging through her body but she eventually fell at His feet.

A Look At Jesus' Words- Matthew 9:22

"Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment."

Matthew 9:22

Jesus turned and actually said three things:

1. **Take Courage-** Look up, get excited...your going to like this!

Take heart/Be of good comfort- tharseo- 2293: to be of good courage and of good cheer.

2. **Daughter-** Jesus used an endearing statement when He called her *daughter*. This is a word of tenderness and affection. It was one of acceptance and love. The separating disease had cause so much distance between her and everyone else and in one instance she is restored. She was a child of God, accepted and loved. Jesus knew the longing of her heart. It had been years since she had been part of any family. She was an outcast, and not of her own design. It was not because of her own rebellion but because of her sickness. Jesus is calling us to Himself so he can call us to the purpose and plan for our life and a life of being dependent on Him.

3. **Your Faith has healed you-**

Faith- *pistis*- 4102: conviction of the truth of anything, belief; trust and holy fervor

Her faith and confidence in Jesus was the means of her restoration. It was the power of Jesus that cured her; but it was her faith that released Jesus' power to do the work.

Jesus Continues His Work

"When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region."

Matthew 9:23-26

1. Jesus silenced the songs and conversation of death by sending them away
2. Jesus defined the way he saw her, not the way she was
3. Jesus acted and she lived

I. Give Yourself Permission To Consider

II. Give Yourself Permission To Personalize

III. Give Yourself Permission To Receive-

- Receive that what Jesus says is true
- Receive that what God's word says is true
- Receive that that Word is for me

IV. Give Yourself Permission To Believe-

- I can believe that my salvation is a real fact
- I can believe that His Word has eternal affect
- I can believe that I can stand on His Word for my life
- Both **Came** to Christ
- Both **Bowed** before Christ
- Both **needs were met** through Christ

When Jesus allows an impure woman to touch him and touches the hand of a dead

little girl, He contradicts the law, the influence of His power went from Him to others rather than being made unclean by them. See, Jesus is always willing to touch our brokenness and sees His influence greater than our sickness or sin. As we give ourselves permission to trust His grace and mercy we can expect to see His hand move in our lives in an incredible way.