

Long Story Short: Do You Dare?

Reflect

- 1) What would make someone think they are pestering Jesus when they pray?
- 2) What are some barriers to believing Jesus cares about your pain and circumstances?
- 3) What are some things that might keep you from bringing your deepest pain to Jesus for healing?

Read Your Bible

- Gen.18:20-33
- Mark 5: 21-34

Apply God's Word to Your Life

- 1) Abraham kept asking for more. What do you think God's limit would have been?
- 2) Describe a time when you felt like someone had bothered you to your limit.
- 3) What does the difference in your answers to 1 and 2 say about God's character and patience to be 'pestered'?
- 4) Both Abraham and the woman received what they desired in these passages. How do you think the outcome would have been different if they hadn't reached out in faith and pursued what they desired?
- 5) Describe a time when God's healing hand was apparent to you.
- 6) How do you think God would react if you took your deepest pain or point of suffering to Him?

When I picture the woman who touched Jesus' cloak looking for help, I am also reminded of an image of a young child tugging on the bottom of a parent's shirt to get their attention. Sometimes I feel that small, and I feel like I am a bother when going to Jesus with my problems. But just like an attentive parent would affectionately acknowledge their child, Jesus acknowledged and healed the woman who touched His cloak. Even amongst the sea of people crowding around Him, Jesus took a moment to speak with her and didn't treat her as an interruption. He doesn't see us as a bother at all. Though we may have some broken places where shame and pain may make us feel unworthy, that shame and pain is exactly what He wants us to pester Him about. Only God has the power to work through and repair our broken parts and replace them with joy, hope and healing. We need to stop thinking we are bothering God and start inviting Him in to our most broken places.

Pray

Lord, You are so good. I know that You care deeply about me and all that I am going through. I think so highly of You, and I feel so insignificant sometimes, that I feel if I bring my shame and pain to You, it would be like I am pestering You. Thank You that Your ways are higher than mine. Thank You for seeing me and helping me see that I am worthy of Your love even in my deepest pain. In this moment, I invite You in to my most broken parts. Please replace my shame and pain with Your hope and healing. In Jesus' name. Amen.
