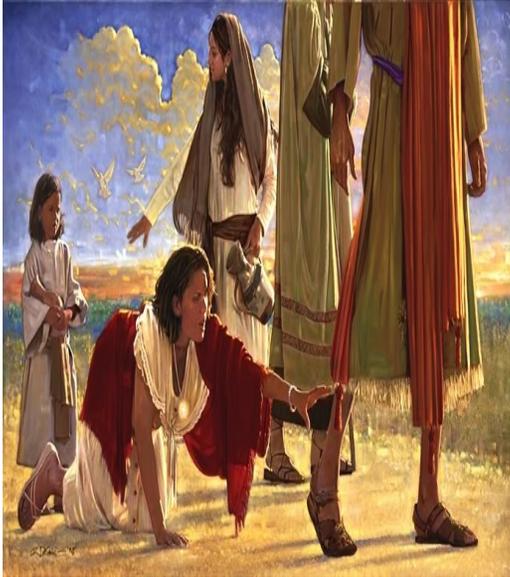


deceitful and the liar bear the spots of leprosy. We have need that He shall heal us within, Who for this healed without, that we might desire to be healed within.

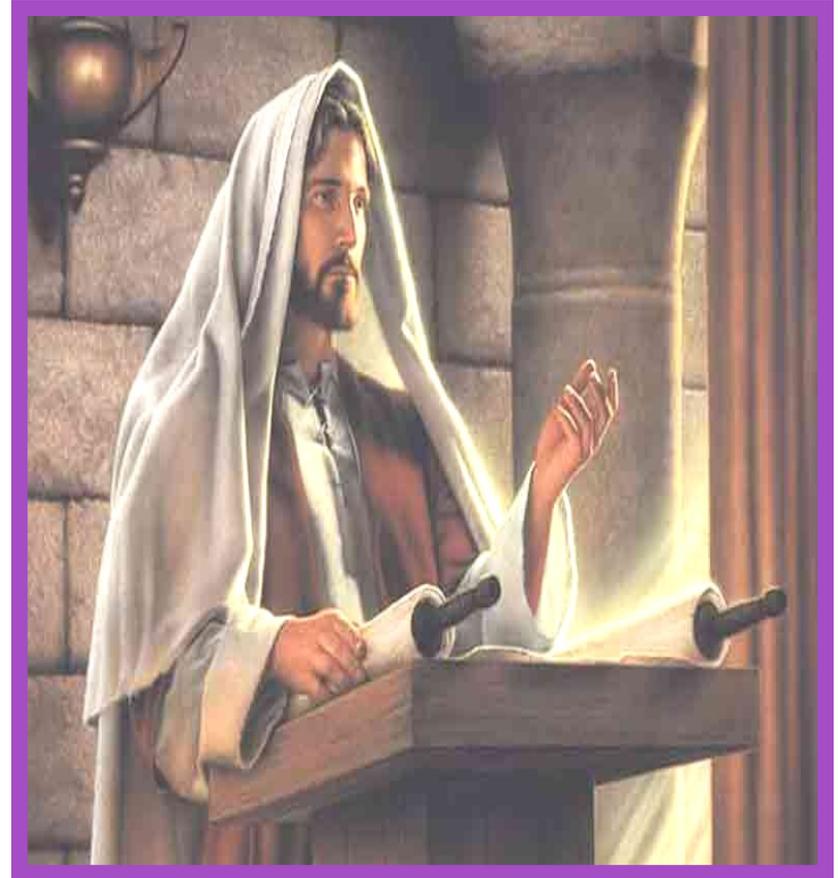


Prayer: Great is that possession for which so great a price was paid! And the price was not gold or silver, or wealth or lands, nor anything that can be divided. The possession of Christ is the Church. The possession of the Church is peace. He left us peace. Peace is our price; peace is our inheritance: let there be no strife among us. Engraft in your hearts, my brethren, the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and rejoice

in them, be glad in them, take delight in them. And let us give thanks that we are in the Church, that He commended to us with words, and then ascended into heaven. If the Jews mocked Him as He hung upon the Cross, let Christians beware of despising Him reigning in Heaven. Amen.



**SERMON ON
THE RULER AND AN ISSUE OF BLOOD
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
122 - 1**



JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

Volume 3 - Page 1361 (1962 edition)

Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew 9: 18-26

by: Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor

When the record of past happenings are being read to us, they both illumine the mind and turn our thoughts to our own hopes for the future. Jesus was on His way to raise the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue who, He had been told, was already dead. And as He was going there, of a sudden, this woman who was afflicted with a disease appeared in His path; filled with faith, but failing in blood: to be restored by Blood. And she said in her heart: *If I shall touch only the hem of his garment, I shall be healed.* Saying this, she touched it: she touched Christ in faith. She drew near and touched Him; and it happened as she believed. But the Lord asked: *Who hath touched me?* He wishes to know, from Whom nothing is hidden; He asks by whom this was done, though He knew of it before it was done. Here then is a mystery. Let us consider it, and as He shall give us to understand it.

The daughter of the ruler of the synagogue stands for the Jewish people; this woman the Church of the Gentiles. The Lord Christ, born of the Jews in the Flesh, appears before these same Jews in His Body. He sends to the Gentiles; He Himself does not go. His bodily and visible life was passed in Judea. Because of this the Apostle says: *For I say that Christ Jesus was minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers* (for to Abraham was it said: *In thy seed shall all nations be blessed* (Gen. xxii. 18); *But that the Gentiles are to glorify God for his mercy* (Rom. xv. 8, 9).

Christ therefore was sent to the Jews. He was on His way to the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue to raise her to life. This woman appeared on the way, and is healed: healed first in faith; and as it were unknown to the Savior. Why did he say: *Who hath touched me?* The not knowing of God; her confidence in the divine mystery: it means something, when He knows not, Who cannot not know. What then does she stand for? The healed Church of the Gentiles; which does not see Christ in His bodily presence; of whom there is mention in the psalm: *A people which I knew not hath served me; at the hearing of the*

ear they have obeyed me (Ps. xvii. 45). The whole world has heard of Him, and believed in Him. The people of Judea saw Him; they first crucified Him; hereafter they too shall come to Him. The Jews shall also believe; but at the end of the world.

Meanwhile that this woman may be healed, let her touch the hem of His Garment. And for the Garment, understand the Company of the Apostles. There was a certain one among them, the last and the least; the hem as it were: the Apostle Paul. He was sent to the Gentiles who says: *For I am the least of the Apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle.* And again: *I am the last of the apostles* (1 Cor. xv. 9, 8). This last and least hem, this is necessary for the healing of the unhealed woman. What we have heard has come to pass; what we have heard now takes place. Daily this woman touches the hem of His Garment; daily she is made clean. For the weakness of the flesh, this is an issue of blood. When we give ear to the Apostle; when we listen to this last and least hem of the Lord's Garment, as he says to us: *Mortify your members which are upon earth* (Col. iii. 5), then the issue of blood is checked, fornication is repressed, drunkenness is put to shame, worldly delights are restrained, all *the works of the flesh* are restrained (Gal. v. 19).

Wonder not it was a hem of His garment was touched. When the Lord said: *Who hath touched me?* It was as knowing, He knew not; meaning and pointing to the Church; which He saw not with His Body, but redeemed with His Blood.

There is need of a Physician: He Who came to heal the sick of soul; but also willed to heal the ills of bodies, to show He was the Savior of the soul, because He is the creator of both. For He is not the Creator of the soul, yet not of the body: and He willed to warn us that the soul is healed from within. So He healed the body: but within the body the soul watched, so that what it saw Jesus accomplish without, it desired He would accomplish within. What had God accomplished? He healed an issue of blood..., a disease of the soul... The wanton is troubled with an issue of blood, and the