**Thesis:** What do you do when you feel like all of your options for healing have run out? When it seems like you’ve explored every avenue and used all of your resources? The prophet Isaiah writes in *Isaiah 46:4 “I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”*

If it feels like you’re at the end of your rope or sinking under the weight of your afflictions, reach out to Jesus. He promises to lift you up.

**Introduction:** Welcome to The Jesus Podcast. I’m Zak from Pray.com. It’s so good to be with you today. Today’s story of the lost being found will surely pull on your heartstrings. Make sure you’re following the podcast as we unpack more of the marvelous stories of Jesus’ ministry to save.

**Context:** An unusual and brief encounter, Jesus healing the woman with the issue of blood is not to be glossed over. Though it’s tucked away in the midst of other fuller accounts of Jesus healing, casting out demons, and reviving the dead, it doesn’t make the woman or her story any less significant. What we have distilled down to just a few verses in the Bible is a 12 year burden that this woman carries with her everywhere she goes. An endless torment, continually considered unclean by Jewish customs, this woman has no choice but to endure the life of an outcast. As we listen through this short but powerful encounter, be reminded of God’s deep care for you. No matter how weak you’ve grown, Jesus is present and ready to give you the hand up you need.

**Message:** What started on a random day has become a 12-year struggle. The woman with the issue of blood has nothing left. She’s spent all of her money on doctors, who have no answer for her and no cure for her ailment. Indescribable confusion, a sense of hopelessness, and no one else to turn to leave the woman in a place many of us would consider to be a dead end. But that’s not what we find on display in her life.

To the contrary, we find a woman who has not lost heart.

Even though she has tried every conceivable way to find a cure, she hasn’t given up. Just because nothing has worked yet doesn’t mean there isn’t something, or someone, who will. It was this resolve and strength of spirit that kept her moving forward day after day. She held out hope.

If you’re facing a long-term illness or struggle in life, just because you haven’t found healing yet doesn’t mean it isn’t coming. One way or another, Jesus is going to take away the pain. Sometimes that means He takes it away on this side of eternity. And praise Him when He does!

But we also have to understand that there are other times when our wait may be longer than we’d like. Perhaps that even means we’re finding our hope of healing in Jesus’ return when He makes all things new and takes away all of our sorrow and pain in the new heaven and earth. But that doesn’t make the testimony of God’s faithfulness any less powerful.

Take the apostle Paul for example. We learn in his second letter to the Corinthian church that he’s facing some sort of personal affliction that he has asked God continually to take away, yet still endures it. But Paul didn’t lose faith in God or feel that He’s any less present. We read in *2 Corinthians 12:8 “Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

Paul understood that his strength didn’t come from within. At some point in our lives, our stamina, hope, and optimism runs out. When we are weak, who can we turn to? What can we lean on?

For Paul, it was his very weaknesses that allowed the strength of God to shine through. Likewise, our weaknesses don’t have to cause us to lose heart. Keep bringing your burdens to Jesus. And what we’ll find, as Eliana did, is that Jesus is never too busy for us when we reach out to Him for help.

Eliana discovers Jesus passing through on His way to heal the daughter of a synagogue leader named Jairus. It was apparent Jesus was focused on the task ahead, and an important one at that.

To Eliana, certainly this healing would have been more important than her own. Rather than stopping Jesus to make her request known, she devises her own plan. She thought if she could only touch his clothes, then she would be healed and Jesus wouldn’t be inconvenienced.

But there was something deeper at work here. According to the Law of Moses, a woman who had her monthly bleeding was considered ceremonially unclean. Most women remained somewhat isolated, taking time to rest and wait for the bleeding to end. But for Eliana, the bleeding never stopped. So, she couldn’t be close to anyone or fully engage with society.

Eliana knew that if she were to touch Jesus, she would make him ceremonially unclean. That’s why she chose the hem of his garment. And that’s why she tried to slip by unnoticed.

And at first, it seems like her plans worked. As she touched the hem of his cloak, she was immediately healed and felt like rushing back into her veins as she was freed from her suffering.

But this wasn’t the end of the story for Jesus. The Lord felt power leave from His body and stopped in His tracks to discover who it was. Confused, the disciples explain that there were many around who were bustling to see Him; it could have been any one of them who had touched Him. But Jesus was intent on finding the woman He knew had just received healing.

Jesus knew who she was, and He wanted to meet her face-to-face. Not because He was inconvenienced or upset at what she had done. Jesus wanted her to know that He saw her, felt compassion for her, and loved her. He could have just as easily continued on knowing He had healed her and allowed her to retreat with her newfound life. But instead, He wanted to take the time to acknowledge that He saw her. He wanted her to not only experience His power, but to know what it really meant to be in His presence. **Jesus doesn’t want to just heal us, He wants to be with us. He takes away our sins for that very purpose: So we can enjoy life with Him as His great name is glorified in us and through us.**

**Maybe you need to hear today that you aren’t just another face in a crowd. You’re unique and uniquely seen by Jesus. He sees you. He loves you. You’re not anonymous. You’re an individual with dreams for the future, pain from the past, and potential to live up to.**

Eliana didn’t cheat the system by secretly stealing power through Jesus’ robe. She was healed because Jesus deliberately allowed her to be healed. And He did so because He saw the great faith in her that spurred her on to press through the crowds and make her way to Him. The woman’s chronic illness, though long-lasting, was nothing compared to her enduring faith that would triumph over her hardships. This is the type of enduring faith that Jesus desires for all of us.

Faith is more than a one-off decision. It’s a consistent and continual choice. A determined outlook on life to choose Jesus above all else and follow Him. A lifelong refrain of putting our hope in Him.

And here’s why enduring faith is so important according to *James 1:12 “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”* It’s faith that keeps us close to Jesus, who gives us true life. We have been saved by His grace through our faith. Faith is key to finding healing.

Before Jesus departs from the woman, He sends her with words that He often shares with those He heals: *“Go in peace…”* While the healing from her physical infirmity would have been more than enough to satisfy the woman’s heartache and grief, Jesus sent her off to go in peace. A beautiful combination of command and promise. The peace of God is a splendid gift. It doesn’t mean that all of our troubles will disappear. But what it does mean is that we can have the comforting presence of His Spirit with us wherever we go, through whatever we may face in life. The woman with the issue of blood wasn’t only healed physically; she was spiritually revitalized in her encounter with Jesus. This is what allowed her to jump back into life with complete joy. Not only had God healed her body, He had healed her heart. And the same healing is made available to each one of us when we reach out to Jesus and put our faith in Him.