

I. Famous American Women – Joni Earickson Tada

In 1967, Joni Earickson was an active teenager who loved to ride horses, play tennis, dance, and swim. In fact, it was while swimming at the age of 17, that Joni broke her neck and became a **quadriplegic** (someone who has lost the use of both hands and feet). During the next two years as she spent time in a hospital, she struggled with her disability, and at many points, begged friends to help her take her own life. Her inability to move by herself made suicide impossible.



However, during this time, she also began to ask for the purpose behind this accident. One day, she asked a young friend why God had let this happen to her. *“If God is all powerful and in control, what could be the purpose in this?”* Her friend pointed to the suffering and death of Jesus as an example of God’s will and yet, of God’s ability to take the most horrible evil and use it for good. Joni began to understand that God could use the destruction and pain of her accident for good.

From that time on, Joni began to want to live again. She learned to paint with a brush between her teeth and has sold her artwork around the world. She has recorded albums where she sings songs of hope and joy. She has also written at least 17 books and become a nationally-known speaker, particularly as a spokeswoman for those with physical disabilities. In 1982, Joni married Ken Tada, a high school history teacher who is now retired and helps Joni in her work with and for disabled people.

Question: When we ask God for healing, we usually want complete healing, the kind that allows us to walk again or cures cancer. What were the advantages of Joni not receiving this kind of healing?

During His life on earth, Jesus also interacted with women with needs for physical healing. Read more below.

II. Jesus interacts with Women: Jesus Heals a Woman and a Girl

Vocabulary:

Synagogue: Jewish place of worship

Cloak: outer garment, coat, robe

Plead: beg, ask

Tremble: shake

To wail: to cry loudly

Astonished: surprised

Introduction: How has someone expressed their love to you recently? How did you feel?

Read the Following Story: Luke 8: 40-55

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. ⁴¹ Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house ⁴² because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. ⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵ "Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

⁴⁷ 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. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

⁴⁹ While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher anymore."

⁵⁰ Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

⁵¹ When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. ⁵² Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

⁵³ They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" ⁵⁵ Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. ⁵⁶ Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

Background: *Women who were bleeding were considered to be religiously unclean. They weren't supposed to be touched or to touch anyone. It was against the Jewish religious law. Another account of this story in the book of Mark gives additional information about the woman: "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)*

What Happened:

1. Who was Jarius and what did he want Jesus to do? (v 41-42)
2. What happened when Jesus was on His way to Jairus' house? (v 43)
3. Describe the woman who touched Jesus? (v 43) How do you think she felt?
4. What happened when the woman touched Jesus? (v 44)
5. How did Jesus know that someone had touched Him? (v 46)
6. What did the woman say to Jesus and how did Jesus respond to her? (v 47 & 48)
7. What did the person from Jairus' house tell Jairus? (v 49) What was Jesus' response? (v 50)
8. What were all the people at Jairus' house doing? (v 52) How did Jesus respond to the people?
9. How did the people react to Jesus' words? (v 53) Why?
10. What did Jesus say to the girl? (v 54) What did the girl do? (v 55)

Questions:

1. Why do you think so many people were waiting for Jesus?
2. Why do you think the woman was brave enough to touch Jesus, even though it was against the Law?
3. When the woman touched Jesus, He felt power go out of Him. What does this tell us about who Jesus is?
4. What part does faith play in each of these incidents of healing? (see verses 48 & 50)
5. Why do you think Jesus let only Peter, James, John, and the girl's parents inside with Him?
6. What do these accounts tell us about Jesus and His love for people? How does this relate to us today?