

Closer to the Lord

GOD'S PLAN FOR HUMANITY IS RELATIONSHIP

- A. We have an open invitation (*Hebrews 10:22 NLT*)
 - 1. We are now qualified through faith in Christ Jesus
- B. What we believe can hinder our relationship
 - 1. Believing closeness to God only for a select few - other people
 - 2. Believing that coming closer to God will limit us
 - 3. Believing closeness is up to God, not us

THREE BELIEFS THAT HELPED (Mark 5:24-34 NLT)

- A. She believed good things about Jesus - because of what she heard
 - 1. That He had healing power in Him
 - 2. She didn't know if He would heal her
- B. She believed that if she could get to Him, she would be healed
 - 1. If she hadn't had that basic belief, she would not have tried
 - 2. She believed she had no other option
 - 3. She believed getting to Jesus was worth the effort
- C. She believed beyond public perception and religious laws
 - 1. Technically, she was not supposed to be out in public
 - 2. Her strong desire to live pushed her past the crowd around Jesus
- D. Her beliefs enabled her to come close to Jesus
 - 1. She was able to touch Him and be healed
 - 2. He was very compassionate with her - called her daughter
 - 3. At that point, it didn't matter what others thought

BELIEFS THAT BUILD CLOSENESS

- A. Believing God is really good
 - 1. Going beyond believing God is powerful
 - 2. Believing He is good takes away the hesitation
 - 3. Belief is based on what is revealed (*Psalms 86:15 NLT*)
- B. Believing that you are able to come closer to Him
 - 1. You are not relegated to second class
 - 2. Because of Jesus, no one has an advantage over you (*Galatians 2:6 NKJV*)
 - 3. This is where mind renewal is so important
- C. Believing the opinions of others is not the deciding factor in your life
 - 1. People matter, but they should not have the last word
 - 2. Trust is a key to closeness: fear is a hindrance (*Proverbs 29:25 NLT*)