

crowd—I have seen them. Sometimes people are very rude when they want to get a favorite seat in a church, and weak women are sometimes jostled when they are trying to get into the building. There was great difficulty in the way of this woman, but when a person is really in earnest no difficulty will keep them away. You may say If I become religious my companions will laugh at me, my employer will dislike it; my own family will look hardly upon it; I shall be a loser. Very likely. But if you are in earnest you will say I will perish there, at the cross, but I will not keep away. Nobody was ever kept away from heaven by circumstances. We were never intended to be the creatures and the slaves of circumstances. Circumstances were intended to help us if we have an earnest heart to look to God for His assistance to do what is right. This poor woman was in earnest; and if you and I are in earnest, what seem to be hindrances will be no hindrances at all. She pushed her way through the crowd. Very likely some one said Keep farther back. Another would say Why make such a fuss there, woman? Don't disturb us. But the poor thing kept on, little by little. Every inch she gained was a little nearer. And so, if people try to hinder you from getting near to Christ, don't be hindered. Keep on earnestly, perseveringly. Keep your eye fixed on Him, and still press onwards towards Him. This poor diseased person found her way through that crowd to Christ, and you can through any crowd. When she reached him she stood behind him. She did not like to make it known. She did not come forward in the enquiry class or in the church; she did not go to any minister; she hid herself in the crowd. She thought If I can only touch the hem of his garment virtue will come out of him; and so she would hope in him—very likely with some doubts and misgivings and little faith. Faith is not something that has no doubts to contend with; it is confidence prevailing over doubts. Don't think you will have faith without doubts—nobody ever had. David, Daniel, Moses—all of them doubtless had some doubts. Faith is the victory of confidence over doubt. This poor woman touched the hem of his garment. Oh, let us in this manner lay hold on Christ. Whatever our fears and doubts be let us apply to him for mercy. And what was the result? At once she was healed of her plague. At once the disease was stopped; and let a sinner apply by faith to the Lord Jesus Christ, and at once the grace of the Lord Jesus is imputed to that soul. There is forgiveness at once. He is justified at once. He ceases to be under condemnation. He passes out of death into life. I do not say at once he is made perfect and thoroughly sanctified. There is a great work now done in perfecting the cure; but at once the believer passes out of darkness into light, out of death into life through the grace of Jesus Christ. Oh sinner, if you will but come to Christ now and lay hold of him now you shall receive the grace of Christ—you shall receive it now—"just now," as your simple but beautiful hymn expresses it. The Lord Jesus knew all about it. The Lord Jesus said Who touched me? Did not he know? He knew very well but he wanted her to confess it. We are to believe in the heart and we