



## Grain

“With all things and in all things, we are relatives.”

–Native American (Sioux) Proverb

## Field

<sup>24</sup>So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. <sup>25</sup>Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. <sup>26</sup>She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup>for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” <sup>29</sup>Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup>Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” <sup>31</sup>And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” <sup>32</sup>He looked all around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”  
Mark 5:21-43

## Thoughts

Before same sex marriage was legal nationwide, a gay couple, Steve and Phil, asked me to perform a commitment ceremony for them. They had been together for over 20 years. Before Parkinson’s disease would more severely affect one of them, they wanted to celebrate their love publicly with family and friends.

On the day of the ceremony, the church was packed, including some familiar faces from the LGBTQ+ community, but largely with what appeared to be straight couples. Along with Biblical passages, they had a reading from a legal case involving same sex marriage before the landmark Supreme Court decision in 2015. The readings together were powerful, acknowledging God’s love and societal injustices that codified keeping queer people on the outside. What was most unexpected was that I lost control of the crowd.

After the vows, when pronouncing Steve and Phil as publicly committed, people expectedly applauded. But they didn’t stop. The crowd stood before it was time to and continued clapping and clapping. It was like a holy interruption, a recognition not only of Steve and Phil’s personal love but what their relationship meant to their community and society. Despite same sex marriage not being legal, they had loved ones, co-workers, people in the church and other institutions who welcomed them and others who were like us.

The woman who touched Jesus’ garment was ostracized and alone. Jesus called her daughter and pointed to how her faith made her well. She was restored to community, which had to be healthy for both her and a community that may have at one time rendered her invisible.

Jesus sometimes interrupts us to say, Enough anxiety, my daughter, my son, my child. Stop to rest and to celebrate here in God and let justice flow. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy