There was a crush of bodies on a hot, dirty street. Found in the midst was a woman in distress. For years she’d endured constant bleeding, and was now desperate to reach Jesus. She’d heard of others who had touched him and were healed, so she pressed on, believing she could receive a miracle as well.

But he was headed way, moving through the unrelenting crows to bring relief to another.

Fighting her way closer, she finally was near enough to reach between others and brush her finger against the back of Jesus’ garment. Instantly something changed. The unwelcome bleeding didn’t slow; it stopped completely. Right there in a mass of humanity, she received her miracle.

While there are several things in this story (found in Luke 8:40-48) that give me hope, I’m most taken by the reality that this was not a God-directed miracle. While plenty of those are found in the Gospels, in this instance Jesus was actually headed away from the woman when she was healed. He was not seeking her out, yet she accessed God’s power just the same.

Have you ever felt like God was headed away from you when you needed him most? I have. While intellectually I know he has promised to never leave me, it can still feel like he’s absent. So this story brings a strong reminder: even when it seems God isn’t headed my way, I still have access to his power. Just as this woman was made whole because of her faith in Jesus, I can press through whatever is standing between me and a miracle, trusting God to meet my need.

“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.” (Hebrews 10:36)

JESUS IS CREATOR-SAVIOR AND GOD