

A Determined Spirit

Give up or Get up

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Sunday 28th July 2019



Raise a Hallelujah

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=awkO61T6i0k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awkO61T6i0k)

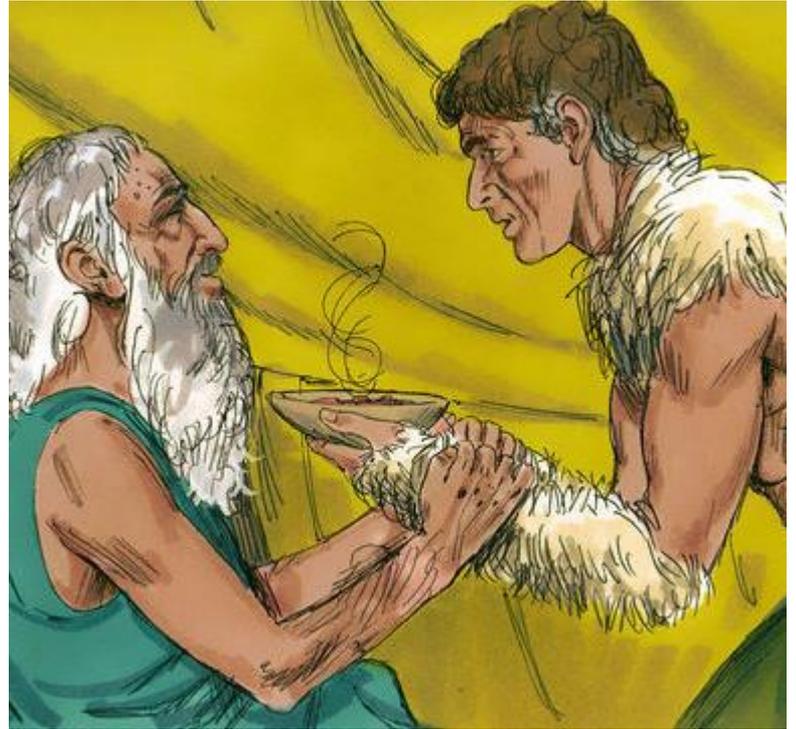


Four people with a determined spirit:

1. Jacob
2. The woman with the issue of blood
3. Zacchaeus
4. Elisha

What do we know about Jacob?

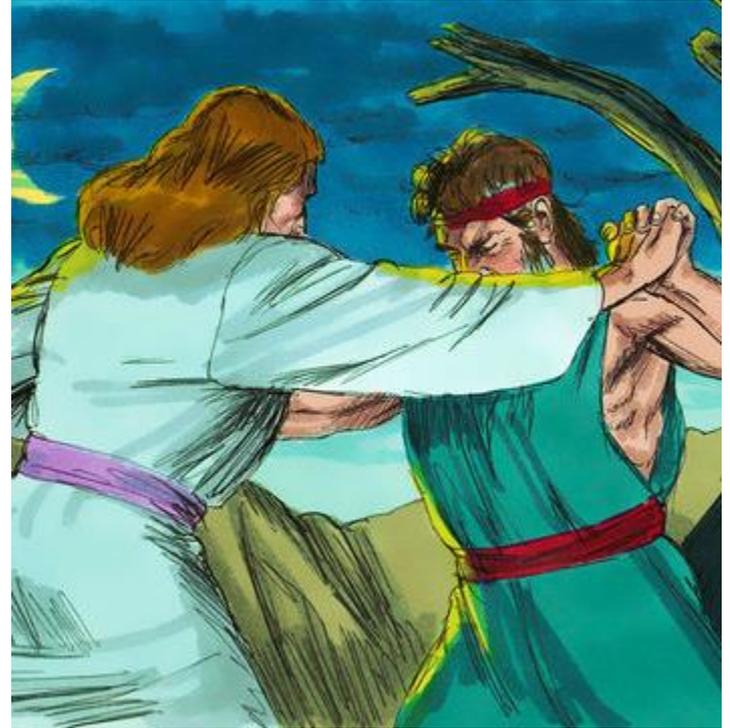
- Jacob born grasping the heel of Esau
- He stole Esau's birthright
- He tricked his father into giving him Esau's blessing
- He lived with his uncle Laban to escape from Esau
- He married Laban's daughters, Leah and Rachel
- He became prosperous and tricked his uncle in order to keep the best sheep and goats



²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with man and have overcome." (Genesis 32:22-28)

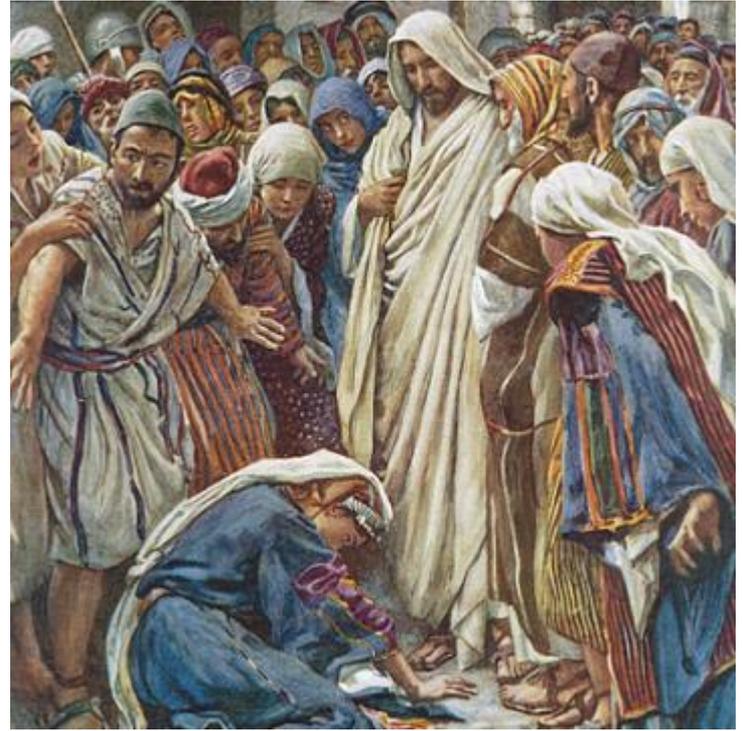
Jacob can respond in one of two ways:

- **Give up says** – *“You don’t understand. I’m ruined, I’ve messed up and now there’s no hope. Just kill me!!”*
- **Get up says** – *“OK, it’s my fault I’m in this mess, but I do believe in God so I will wrestle with you”.*



The woman with the issue of blood

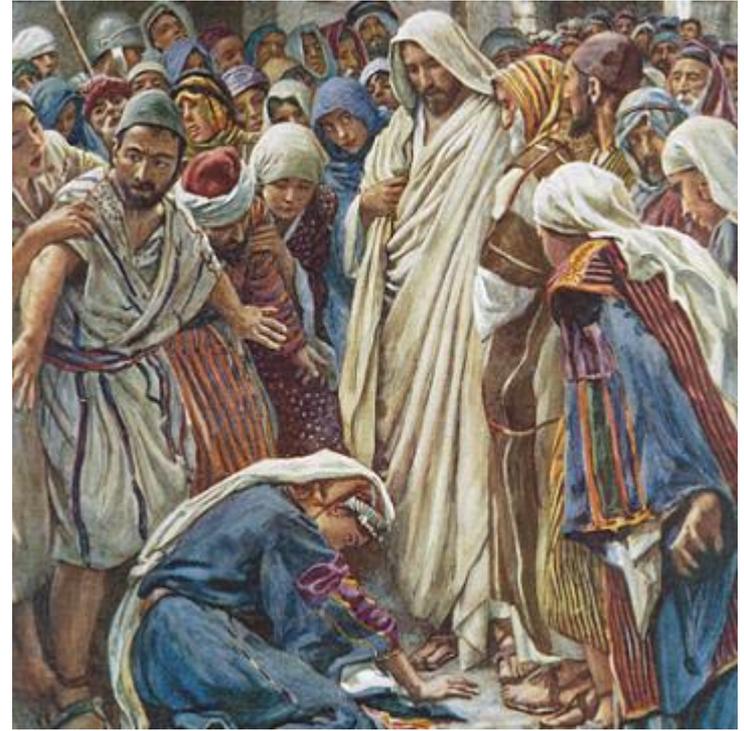
A great crowd surround Jesus. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. (Mark 5:25-29)



The woman with the issue of blood

What do we learn about this woman?

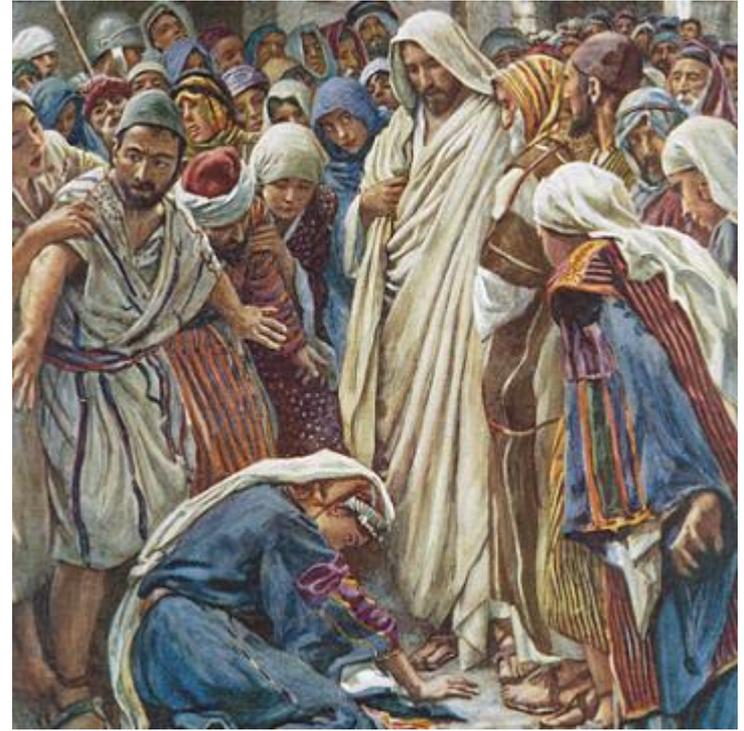
- She had some kind of bleeding problem which had been going on for 12 years.
- She had spent all her money on doctors but no-one had been able to heal her.
- She probably thought to herself: “This is how it’s always going to be!!”



The woman with the issue of blood

The crowds were in the way

- **Give up says** – *Oh well, it would have been good but it's clearly not meant to be. Maybe another time. It probably wouldn't have worked anyway; it never has before!!*
- **Get up says** – OK, there's a crowd following Jesus. What can I do to get through the crowd?



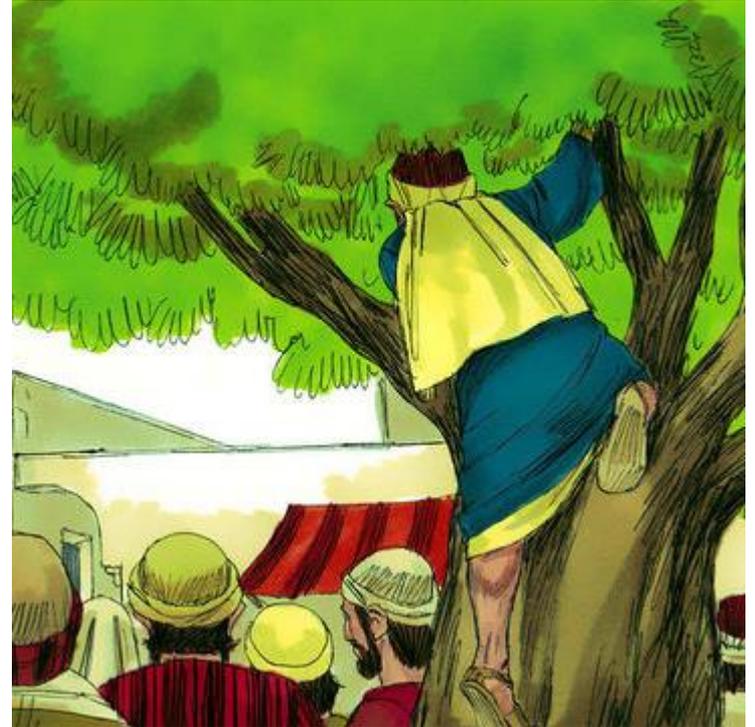
What do we know about Zacchaeus?

- He was small; he was a tax collector and generally despised by those around him
- He wanted to see Jesus but he couldn't see him because of the crowds and because he was too short to see above them.



How might Zacchaeus respond?

- **Give up says** – *Oh well, why would Jesus want to spend time with someone like me anyway? I don't deserve to see him; I'm not worthy.*
- **Get up says** – *OK, so there are crowds all around Jesus; I'm too short to see anything, so what am I going to do about it?*



What do we know about Elisha?

- He was farmer, going about doing is daily farming work when one day Elijah turns up and places his cloak on him.
- Elisha understood the meaning of this action; Elijah was basically saying to him, you are going to take over from me.
- How do you think Elisha felt about this?



Elisha could have responded in one of two ways:

- **Give up says** – *I can't do this; I don't have what it takes. He gives Elijah his cloak back and returns to his job on the farm.*
- **Get up says** – *I can't do this right now. I don't have what it takes. I will pursue and cling to Elijah until I get what I need.*



Hebrews 4:11 – Let us strive to enter his rest.

- If Jacob hadn't wrestled with God and overcome, he would have missed his blessing.
- If the woman hadn't pushed her way through the crowds, she would have missed her healing.
- If Zacchaeus had not risen above his handicap, he would have missed his forgiveness.
- If Elisha hadn't pursued Elijah with all his heart and soul, he would have missed his anointing.

‘Resignation is surrender to fate. Acceptance is surrender to God. Resignation lies down quietly in an empty universe. Acceptance rises up to meet the God who fills that universe with purpose and destiny. Resignation says, “I can’t.” Acceptance says, “God can.” Resignation paralyses the life process. Acceptance releases the process for its greatest creativity. Resignation says, “It’s all over for me.” Acceptance says, “Now that I’m here, what’s next, Lord?” Resignation says, “What a waste.” Acceptance says, “In what redemptive way will you use this mess, Lord?” Resignation says, “I’m alone.” Acceptance says, “I belong to you, Lord.”’ (Creath Davis)