



Church is a movement

By Jill Rowe

EPISODE THREE.

A movement that walks with a limp. Luke 8

This episode will help you **engage, reflect and respond** to Church is. We encourage you to explore each episode with friends - if you do, let us know! We'd love to hear about it and your thoughts and ideas.

Each episode has a companion video and each episode title mirrors one of its key themes. Thanks for downloading.

Companion video: churchis.co.uk/jillrowe

Episode: THREE of FOUR



W W W . C H U R C H . C O . U K



A movement that walks with a limp

Luke 8: 43-48 (NIV)



As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. ⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵ 'Who touched me?' Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, 'Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.'

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, 'Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.'

⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

⁴⁸ Then he said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.'

Church was never meant to be an exclusive club; a place for all those who are right or who get it right.

Instead, when we look at Jesus we see someone who met people in their brokenness and created a sense of a safe place for them to become whole again and truly themselves. For some of us that might be the journey of a life time. For others it might simply be to know that we are invited to join in.

That the thing that we thought was a source of shame isn't. The thing that we thought excluded us doesn't. The thing that we thought restricted us won't.

In the encounter of Jesus with the 'bleeding woman' we discover a woman riddled with shame, whose experience for twelve full years had been one of exclusion - being kept out. And then she makes a brave move and steps into

a space that feels unsafe and unwelcoming and literally takes her life in her hands and dares to touch Jesus' cloak. She thought she might be healed. And Jesus noticed what she did. And Jesus noticed her.

He provided a safe space for her to become whole again. He invited her into the community. Included. Walking with a limp. Just like the rest of us.

Society is full of people pretending - hiding behind masks, coming on strong and brave, living in a seemingly 'everything is ok' space. We all know this to be true because we have all done it and been there. But we also know, if we are honest with ourselves, that life isn't a breeze or a walk in a park. We carry wounds and sores and pains from hurts and experiences in the past and we live in the world of the real where great stuff happens alongside really tough stuff. And it all leaves us doing life with a limp.

But Church is a place where we are all welcomed. Never excluded.

At least it should be.

Where all of us who walk with the scars of life are welcomed into a safe space. A home to do life together and discover the wholeness, fullness and togetherness that Jesus brings.

Please continue to the next page for the discussions questions.

Questions:

Excluded

- What does inclusion look like in your own context?
- Are there things that you know should be different?
- Who are the people that are excluded?

Masks

- Do you ever sense that you need to take off the mask and stop pretending?
- What stops you?

Walk

- What do you think your church would look like and be like if this recognition of us all 'walking with a limp' was understood?