

was no hatred or rancor in my heart, only great pity, and the intention to entrust him to God's mercy."

Letizia Magri

**Read more:**

Lubich, Chiara, "Don't get on the wrong track," *Journey to Heaven*, New City Press: 1997, pp. 49-51.

Lubich, Chiara, "Realistic and hopeful," *Only at night we see the stars*, New City Press: 2002, pp. 19-21.



**Next month:**

"Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 18:4)

Each month the Focolare chooses a Scripture passage as a guide and inspiration for daily living. The commentary on it was originally written by founder, Chiara Lubich (1920-2008). Today this Word of Life, written by an international commission and translated into 96 different languages, reaches several million people worldwide.  
• For audio WOL and youth version, visit [livingcitymagazine.com](http://livingcitymagazine.com) •



was no hatred or rancor in my heart, only great pity, and the intention to entrust him to God's mercy."

Letizia Magri

**Read more:**

Lubich, Chiara, "Don't get on the wrong track," *Journey to Heaven*, New City Press: 1997, pp. 49-51.

Lubich, Chiara, "Realistic and hopeful," *Only at night we see the stars*, New City Press: 2002, pp. 19-21.



**Next month:**

"Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 18:4)

Each month the Focolare chooses a Scripture passage as a guide and inspiration for daily living. The commentary on it was originally written by founder, Chiara Lubich (1920-2008). Today this Word of Life, written by an international commission and translated into 96 different languages, reaches several million people worldwide.  
• For audio WOL and youth version, visit [livingcitymagazine.com](http://livingcitymagazine.com) •



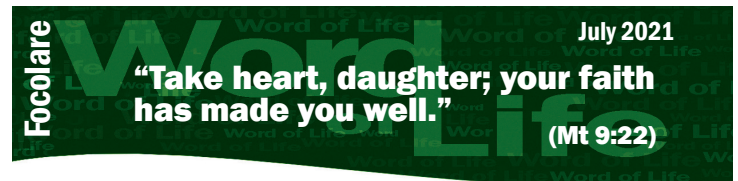
Jesus is walking, surrounded by a crowd. A desperate father has just begged him to come to the aid of his dying daughter. While on his way there, he meets someone else — a woman who has been suffering from blood loss for many years makes her way through the crowd. Her serious physical condition also forces her to limit her family and social interaction. The woman does not call out to Jesus, nor speak, but instead comes up from behind him.

She dares to touch the fringe of his garment, purposely thinking, "If I could only touch his cloak, I will be healed of this suffering that torments me."

And behold, Jesus turns, looks at her and reassures her: her faith has obtained her salvation. This was not only about her physical health, but an encounter with God's love through Jesus' gaze.

**"Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well."**

This episode from Matthew's Gospel opens an unexpected perspective for us too. God is always on his way toward us, but he also awaits our initiative, so that we do not miss an appointment with him.



Jesus is walking, surrounded by a crowd. A desperate father has just begged him to come to the aid of his dying daughter. While on his way there, he meets someone else — a woman who has been suffering from blood loss for many years makes her way through the crowd. Her serious physical condition also forces her to limit her family and social interaction. The woman does not call out to Jesus, nor speak, but instead comes up from behind him.

She dares to touch the fringe of his garment, purposely thinking, "If I could only touch his cloak, I will be healed of this suffering that torments me."

And behold, Jesus turns, looks at her and reassures her: her faith has obtained her salvation. This was not only about her physical health, but an encounter with God's love through Jesus' gaze.

**"Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well."**

This episode from Matthew's Gospel opens an unexpected perspective for us too. God is always on his way toward us, but he also awaits our initiative, so that we do not miss an appointment with him.

Our faith journey, although bumpy and marked by mistakes, fragility and disappointments, has immense value. God is the Lord of true life and wants to share this life with all of us, his sons and daughters.

In his eyes, we are rich with a dignity that no circumstance can suppress. For this reason, today Jesus says to us too:

**“Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.”**

We find help to live this Word of Life in what Focolare’s founder, Chiara Lubich, wrote when meditating precisely on this Gospel passage in 1997.

“In faith, men and women clearly demonstrate that they do not rely on themselves but trust in the One who is stronger,” she wrote.

“Jesus calls the woman he has healed ‘daughter’ to show that he really wants to give her not only the gift of physical healing but also the gift of divine life that can renew her entirely.

“Jesus, in fact, works miracles so that we can accept the salvation that he brings. He embodies the Father’s gift of forgiveness, and when this gift is communicated to men and women, it transforms them.

“How can we live this Word? By showing God our trust in him when we face serious challenges. This attitude certainly does not relieve us of our responsibilities, nor does it dispense us from doing all we can ...

“Yet our faith can be put to the test. We see it clearly in this suffering woman who is able nonetheless to overcome the obstacle of the crowd that stands between her and the master ...

“We need to have faith, then, but a faith that does not doubt in the face of trials. We should show Jesus that we have understood the immense gift of divine life that he has brought us. We must be grateful to him and correspond to it!”

**“Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.”**

This certainty also allows us to bring a measure of salvation by tenderly “touching” those who are suffering, in need, darkness or bewilderment.

This is what happened to a mother from Venezuela who found the courage to forgive. “I was feeling desperate for help when I attended a meeting on the Gospel, where I heard Jesus’ words: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Mt 5:9), and “Love your enemies” (Lk 6:35).

“Love your enemies. How could I forgive those who had killed my son? And yet a seed had entered me, and the decision to forgive finally prevailed. Now I can truly call myself a ‘child of God.’

“Recently I was called to a meeting with my son’s killer, who had been caught. It was difficult, but grace intervened. There

2021

Word of Life

FOCOLARE

Our faith journey, although bumpy and marked by mistakes, fragility and disappointments, has immense value. God is the Lord of true life and wants to share this life with all of us, his sons and daughters.

In his eyes, we are rich with a dignity that no circumstance can suppress. For this reason, today Jesus says to us too:

**“Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.”**

We find help to live this Word of Life in what Focolare’s founder, Chiara Lubich, wrote when meditating precisely on this Gospel passage in 1997.

“In faith, men and women clearly demonstrate that they do not rely on themselves but trust in the One who is stronger,” she wrote.

“Jesus calls the woman he has healed ‘daughter’ to show that he really wants to give her not only the gift of physical healing but also the gift of divine life that can renew her entirely.

“Jesus, in fact, works miracles so that we can accept the salvation that he brings. He embodies the Father’s gift of forgiveness, and when this gift is communicated to men and women, it transforms them.

“How can we live this Word? By showing God our trust in him when we face serious challenges. This attitude certainly does not relieve us of our responsibilities, nor does it dispense us from doing all we can ...

“Yet our faith can be put to the test. We see it clearly in this suffering woman who is able nonetheless to overcome the obstacle of the crowd that stands between her and the master ...

“We need to have faith, then, but a faith that does not doubt in the face of trials. We should show Jesus that we have understood the immense gift of divine life that he has brought us. We must be grateful to him and correspond to it!”

**“Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.”**

This certainty also allows us to bring a measure of salvation by tenderly “touching” those who are suffering, in need, darkness or bewilderment.

This is what happened to a mother from Venezuela who found the courage to forgive. “I was feeling desperate for help when I attended a meeting on the Gospel, where I heard Jesus’ words: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Mt 5:9), and “Love your enemies” (Lk 6:35).

“Love your enemies. How could I forgive those who had killed my son? And yet a seed had entered me, and the decision to forgive finally prevailed. Now I can truly call myself a ‘child of God.’

“Recently I was called to a meeting with my son’s killer, who had been caught. It was difficult, but grace intervened. There

2021

Word of Life

FOCOLARE