



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*July 1, 2018*

### Power Exchange

Bible Reference: Mark 5:21-43

I remember when my uncle taught me how to shop. I had no clue about clothes or what to wear. Up to that point my favorite thing to wear was a 1992 USA Basketball Dream Team cartoon shirt, but he showed me clearance racks with nice polos, button up shirts, and other items. This put me ahead of many of my other friends who weren't so blessed to have a cool uncle like mine to show them how to dress nice on a budget. Unfortunately though, there was that time when I felt like I had failed the man who taught me how to dress. It was when my family showed up to his rehearsal dinner in jeans when everyone else was dressed up. I felt horrible.

Clothes are a very powerful part of our culture. Our culture is driven on consumerism, and a big part of that is what we wear. Before you think I am judging our freedom of dress, think about how clothes are a big part of other cultures also. Every different ethnicity, religion, and culture has a "dress" that is a powerful part of their group. Again, before you are tempted to pat yourself on the back for being a frugal Lutheran, think about how hard it would be for some of you if I did not wear the robe, or alb, to lead Sunday morning worship. I have been blessed (or cursed) to have seen this battle in many of my previous churches. The alb I wear on Sundays has significance, and so do many other cultural clothes.

So what's the point of all this talk about clothes? The point is ...where is the power? That may seem like an odd question, but even during the time of Jesus, people knew there was power in clothes. Dress was an important part of the religion and culture then, just like it is today. This is what makes this week's reading so interesting. The woman who touched Jesus, from a religion and cultural standpoint, knew the power in the clothes of Jesus. But when she touched Him and the real power exchange took place, she saw true power and where, or who, it really comes from. Today we ask where are those places that our country needs a power exchange? Where do we need a power exchange?

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Will*