

THE POWER OF HIS TOUCH

Key Verse: Matthew 8:1-4

Key Thought: The Power of the Touch of God

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before Him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” He said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

Humans, at least when things are working as they should, possess 5 senses. These are sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. All of them are important to our existence in the world and understanding that same world around us. While they are all important, and I wouldn't want to be without any, the sense of touch is one that places us into direct contact with our world. When we touch something, we are becoming intimately involved with that thing. While I have heard of people losing some, or all the other senses, I have never heard of a person losing their sense of touch. Can you imagine not being able to touch your world? Can you imagine not being able to touch those you love? To not be able to touch them might be worse than to not be able to see them!

We all touch thousands of things every day of our lives. Most, we do not even think about. But there are times when we reach out and deliberately touch objects because we want to connect with that object. Our touch might be that of love, passion, tenderness, compassion, help, deliverance or for curiosity. Our touch could involve many other emotions and processes that I didn't mention. Often, our touch can effect change in the objects we touch.

Today, I want to talk about a touch that is far superior to any other human touch. I want to talk about the touch of Christ and remind you that His touch is the touch of God! When He extends His hand into your life and purposely touches you, He will produce changes that no other touch can duplicate.

There are several aspects of His touch that I would like to point out by way of introduction.

- I. **His Touch Is An Intimate Touch** - When Jesus touched this leper, it demonstrated a desire on His part to become intimately involved in this man's life!

- II. **His Touch Is A Powerful Touch** - He touches a Simon and he becomes Peter. He touches a Jacob, and the old trickster becomes Israel, the Prince of God. His touch transforms Abram into Abraham. His touch transformed the defeated Elijah into Elijah, The Man of God. His touch changed Moses the murderer into Moses the leader of the people of God. His touch transformed a nobody named Jeremiah in the Weeping Prophet of God. His touch changed James and John, the Sons of Thunder, into an early martyr and the Apostle of love, respectively. His touch is a powerful touch.

- III. **His Touch Is A Transforming Touch** - Humanity is mere clay, biding its time between the birth and the grave with no hope and purpose, until He touches us. When He does, everything changes!

This morning, I want to spend some time looking at a few events from the life of Christ that showcase the power of His touch. I want to show you what He can do for you if you do not know Him. I want to show you that there is power in the touch of the Lord Jesus Christ. Go with me for just a few minutes as we explore that thought: **The Power of His Touch**.

I. IT TRANSFORMS THE DISEASED

“He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.”

Matthew 8:15

Jesus touches and heals Peter's mother-in-law. In her condition, she represents those afflicted by the blight of sin. She was in a useless, hopeless condition, until she experienced the touch of Jesus upon her life.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23

*“But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he will not hear.”*

Isaiah 59:2

His touch cleanses sin and transforms the sinner from a wasted life to new life!

*“As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”*

Psalms 103:12

II. IT TRANSFORMS THE DEAF

“After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue.”

Mark 7:33

Here was a man who could not communicate with anyone. He could not hear nor speak. But, when Jesus touched him, all that changed! He does the same for lost sinners as well! Those who are saved by God are given the ability to hear Him clearly and the privilege to speak to Him openly.

“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 2:14

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16

III. IT TRANSFORMS THE DARKENED

“Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.”

Matthew 9:29

“After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes.”

John 9:6

Here is a man born blind at birth. He is miraculously touched and healed by the touch of the Lord Jesus. Now, he can see.

He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

John 9:25

He opens the spiritual eyes when He touches our lives.

*This is what God the Lord says—
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:
“I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.*

Isaiah 42:5-7

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

1 Peter 2:9-10

His children see things they had never thought about before.

IV. IT TRANSFORMS THE DOOMED

Jesus touched this leper and delivered him from a life that was doomed. He was doomed to be ravaged by his disease and was doomed to be spending a life separated from other men. Jesus changed all that! In his condition, he pictures the situation of every lost soul today. Separated from God now by a gulf of sin and doomed to an eternity in Hell.

“He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.”

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

The lost person also lives each day enjoying the Lord's blessings, but with no relationship with God at all. All the while, the wages of sin work themselves out in the life of the lost person.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

V. IT TRANSFORMS THE DEAD

“But he took her by the hand and said, “My child, get up!”

Luke 8:54

Jesus merely touched the hand of this dead girl and she lived again! That is the power of His touch! There is nothing worse than death! It takes with it everything we have. In the spiritual realm, there is nothing worse than spiritual death! Yet, it is the condition of every person who is lost.

Thank God for the touch of Jesus Christ.

VI. IT TRANSFORMS THE DECEIVED

*But Jesus answered, “No more of this!”
And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.*

Luke 22:51

Malchus was running with the wrong crowd. He lost his ear and Jesus ministered to Him and healed him for the glory of God. There is no indication that Malchus ever got saved. The compassion of Christ for the need of Malchus broke down all the barriers that stood between them and Jesus touched him with a touch of pure, life-changing grace! That is what He does for all those who are trapped and deceived in sin. He comes to them and offers them life within Himself!

*“The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!”
Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of
the water of life.”*

Revelation 22:17

VII. IT TRANSFORMS THE DISMAYED

*But Jesus came and touched them.
“Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.”*

Matthew 17:7

The disciples were cowering in fear, but Jesus touched them and brought courage to them in their distress! He excels in lifting the fallen and encouraging the downcast. *Daniel in the lion's den, The disciples in the storm*, are two wonderful examples! He will do the same for you too! He knows how to meet your need and bring you out of your distress!

In closing, can you testify today that you have felt the power of His touch firsthand in your life? Do you know what He can do? Or, would you have to say, ***"Preacher, I really need Jesus to touch me today! I need His powerful touch in my life right now."***? I don't know the kind of touch you need in your life today, but I know WHO can give it to you! Jesus is His name and touching lives is His fame. Whether you are lost, backslidden, burdened, discouraged, or just want to learn to love Him more, you need His touch. Come get it!

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30am

Date: October 2, 2022

After Service Song: I Need You More