

Walking with the Word
(Study of Jesus' interaction with People)

THE TOUCH

Jesus Touches a Leper & Heals Him

Mark 1:41-45 ⁴¹ Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, **"I am willing; be cleansed."** ⁴² As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed. ⁴³ And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ and said to him, **"See that you say nothing to anyone; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."** ⁴⁵ However, he went out and began to proclaim *it* freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction.

* Closed the gap – Clean & Unclean – Jesus does that!

* Need – Be Cleansed Touched - Cleansed

* Willing defiled himself!

Luke 7:11-15 ¹¹ Now it happened, the day after, *that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. ¹² And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴ Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵ So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

* Willing Defiled Himself

* **Are willing to touch someone that would defile us?**

Jesus Touches Blind Bartimaeus & Heals Him (Them)

Matthew 20:29-34 ²⁹ Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. ³⁰ And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying,

"Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" ³¹ Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" ³² So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" ³³ They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened." ³⁴ So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

* Need – Eyes Opened

Touched – Eyes Opened

* **We willing to touch people & lives that others reject?**

Jesus Touches Disciples @ Mt. Transfiguration

Matthew 17:5-9 ⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" ⁶ And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them and said, **"Arise, and do not be afraid."** ⁸ When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. ⁹ Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, **"Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."**

* Need – Afraid

Touched – Calmed Fear

* Why is the touch significant here?

* They had just seen Jesus in His glorified state – Completely Holy/Pure/Righteous...Rev 22!!!

* They recognized just how dirty, unholy, ungodly, unrighteous they were!

* Jesus reached out and bridged that gap, closed that gap, touched them!!!

* **Are we willing to touch people's lives during times of fear?**

Jesus Heals a Deaf-Mute

Mark 7:31-37 ³¹ Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. ³² Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. ³³ And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, **"Ephphatha,"** that is, **"Be opened."** ³⁵ Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.

* Asked for the touch of the Lord!

* **When people ask - Are we willing to touch in the name of the Lord?**

Matthew 8:14-15 ¹⁴ Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵ So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

* **Touching the hand**

Mark 10:13-16 ¹³ Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*.

¹⁴ But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

¹⁶ And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

* He touched them to bless them.

* **Are we willing to touch someone to bless them in the name/Lord?**

Jesus Touches High Priests Servant & Heals Him

Luke 22:47-51 ⁴⁷ And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" ⁴⁹ When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

* **Are we willing to "reach out" & touch our "enemies"?**

Application

* Willing to ask for the touch of the Lord tonight?

* Pastors/Elders to come up and pray for you

* **GO AND TOUCH SOMEONE'S LIFE THIS WEEK!**