

The Touch of the Master's Hand

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

A. Matt. 8:1-4

B. The power of His touch

1. Humans possess six senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch, and proprioception. All of them are important to our existence in and interaction with the world around us.
2. The sense of touch places us into direct contact with our world. When we touch something, we become closely involved with it.
3. We all touch thousands of things every day of our lives, often without thinking about it. But, there are times when we reach out and deliberately touch objects because we want to connect with that object.
4. Our touch might be that of love, of passion, of tenderness, of compassion, of help, of deliverance or of curiosity. Often, our touch can effect change in the objects we touch.

C. The touch of Christ is the touch of God.

1. His touch is an intimate touch. When Jesus touched the leper, it demonstrated a desire to become personally involved in his life
2. His touch is a powerful touch.
 - a. Simon becomes Peter
 - b. Jacob becomes Israel, the Prince of God.
 - c. Abram is transformed into Abraham.
 - d. Moses the murderer becomes Moses the leader of God's people
 - e. A nobody teenager named Jeremiah became the weeping prophet of God and the perennial favorite of the Jews.
 - f. His touch changed James and John, the Sons of Thunder, into and early martyr and the Apostle of love, respectively.
 - g. A powerful, transforming touch indeed!

I. HIS TOUCH TRANSFORMED THE DISEASED

A. Matt. 8:14-15 - She was in a helpless, hopeless condition.

1. Fever indicates infection; describe unsanitary conditions; infection was a death sentence in that day

B. Sin makes us helpless and hopeless - Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:2

C. Jesus removes our sins and restores our health - Psalm 103:12; 2Cor. 5:17

II. HIS TOUCH TRANSFORMED THE DEAF

A. Mark 7:32-35 - A man who could not communicate with anyone.

1. How isolated and alone one would be in that condition, even if he were surrounded by people all of the time!

B. The saved can hear the will of God clearly and enjoy the privilege to speak to Him often and openly

1. 1Cor. 2:12-16; Heb. 4:16

III. HIS TOUCH TRANSFORMED THE BLIND

A. Matt. 9:27-30; John 9:6, 25

B. Isa. 42:5-7; 1Peter 2:9-10 - Enlightenment is greater than physical vision

IV. HIS TOUCH TRANSFORMED THE DOOMED

A. Matt. 8:2-3

1. He was doomed to witness his body literally decay for 10 to 30 years while spending a life separated and shunned by all other humans except for fellow lepers. Jesus changed that

B. Sin separates us from God, all heavenly beings, and the righteous, and places us in the company of fellow spiritual lepers in the eternal leper colony of hell

1. 2Thes. 1:8-9; Rom. 6:23; Prov. 13:15; Gal. 6:7

V. HIS TOUCH TRANSFORMED THE DEAD

A. Luke 8:40-56 - Death takes everything one has in this world, and Jesus gave it all back

B. In the spiritual realm, there is nothing worse than separation from God. You will never experience a greater or even an equal loss.

1. Eph. 2:1-10

VI. HIS TOUCH TRANSFORMED THE DECEIVED

A. Luke 22:51 - Malchus was with the wrong crowd. He lost his ear and Jesus healed Him. There is no indication Malchus was ever saved. But Jesus made no distinction among sinners; all are candidates for His grace

B. Matt. 11:28-30; Isa. 55:1-3; John 7:37; Rev. 22:17

VII. HIS TOUCH TRANSFORMED THE DISTRESSED

A. Matt. 17:7 - He excels in lifting the fallen and encouraging the downcast

1. Mark 6:45-51

B. Matt. 28:20; Rom. 8:37; 2Cor. 2:14; 1Cor. 15:57