

Touching Jesus

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The most valuable of arts, precious of stones, or desired of dishes are wrought by the hands of a master artist, master gemologist, or chef. There is something about the music wrought by the hands of those whom culture has labeled as the masters of their gifts. But none can compare to the works of the hands of the One who gives any meaning and ability to the hands of any of us. The hands of a physician can bring healing and life. The hands of a master carpenter can build dreams, and the hands of a great artist or architect can give vision. But the hands of the Master can do all this and much more. His hands go far beyond the limited abilities of those of human hands.

***Psalm 95:5** The sea is **his**, and he made it: and **his hands** formed the dry land.*

***Psalm 111:7** The works of **his hands** are verity and judgment; all **his** commandments are sure.*

In all who come to the revelation of the Master of life, hope, and healing, the Holy Spirit stirs their hearts and souls with a passionate desire **to touch and be touched by the Master.**

Matthew 14:27-36** 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. 28 And Peter answered him and said, **Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.** 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately **Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him**, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? 32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. 33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God. 34 And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place **had knowledge of him**, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; 36 And besought him **that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Peter had a desire to pursue the Master. It was just enough to get him to step out of the boat. However, he began to lose sight of the Master and began to sink. I too have experienced this in my life very recently. In fact, there are times when I look ahead as we take this step of faith and it is hard not to look at the sinking possibilities, instead of walking on water with Jesus. As I prayed the other night while preparing this message I began to think of and relate to Peter and I cried out, "Lord, help me. I cannot walk on water." That is to say, Lord, it is hard for me to step out into the unknown and unsecure and not rationalize reality but to walk by faith and bring my family with me.

But the awesome thing with Peter is that as he cried out he also reached out. Though his faith was weak, he still pursued and reached out for the hand of the Master. And as he did the Master did not leave him hanging. The Master assuredly and immediately reached out and took his hand. As we look at Scripture we find an attribute of the character and nature of Christ the Son and God the Father. There is a pattern to the heart and hand of God.

***Matthew 8:1-3** 1 When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. 2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 3 And **Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him**, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.*

Here again, is someone in desperate pursuit to touch the heart of the Master, and Jesus responds with the touch of His mighty hand of faithful compassion.

***Matthew 9:20-29** 20 And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, **and touched the hem of his garment: 21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.** 22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour. 23 And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, 24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. 25 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and **took her by the hand**, and the maid arose. 26 And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land. 27 And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men*

followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. 29 **Then touched he their eyes,** saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

Matthew 17:5-8 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. 7 And **Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.** 8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

Matthew 20:30-34 30 And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David. 31 And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David. 32 And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you? 33 They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. **34 So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.**

Mark 1:40-42 40 And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 41 **And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.** 42 And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

Mark 7:31-35 31 And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. 32 And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and **they beseech him to put his hand upon him.** 33 And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; 34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. 35 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.

Mark 8:21-25 21 And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand? 22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and **besought him to touch him.** 23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. 24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. 25 After that **he put his hands again upon his eyes,** and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Luke 7:12-15 12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. 14 And **he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still.** And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

Luke 6:17-19 17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; 18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. 19 **And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.**

Again and again we find the pattern. As we pursue the heart of the Master He reaches out His hand to lift up, heal, restore, deliver and bring life. The more desperately we reach for Him, so He reaches out to us. People all over the earth are looking for hope and a helping hand. It is not government handouts that will deliver them, set them free, and bring them life again, it is the hand of the Master. What they do not need is just another sermon or prophetic word. What they need is the touch of the Master.

How will He touch them? It is through you and I. The other day I took my daughters to the dentist. This dentist is the same dentist that worked on my teeth when I was a teen. The Holy Spirit had ministered life to his broken and troubled family and brought hope, healing and restoration many years ago. As we began to leave the Holy Spirit had spoken something for me to tell him. They were very busy but I looked for God to present the opportunity. When the opportunity presented itself I took it. I shook his hand, thanked him and said, "I do not know if this will be relevant to you but God says to you that He has touched your family and your life once before and He can do it again." He replied, "You know, my wife and I are going through a divorce right now." You see, what people need is a touch from the Master. They do not know how to touch Him but you should. It is up to us to pursue the heart and touch the Master that through you and I they may know the touch of the Master.

Acts 19:6 *And when Paul had laid **his hands upon them**, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*

Acts 14:3 *Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of **his grace**, and granted **signs and wonders to be done by their hands**.*

Signs and wonders they need to see. Signs and wonders they will see. The very power of the Word of God and His Kingdom in demonstration they will see when they are touched by the Master; when you and I touch the heart of the Master in our pursuit of His heart and reach out.