

The Touch of Jesus

The Gospel lesson today talks about the healing power of the touch of Jesus. A woman is healed by touching Jesus and a little girl is healed actually raised from the dead by the touch of Jesus. What are we to get out of this story?

1. Jesus has the power to heal.
2. You can touch Jesus and be healed.
3. You can be touched by Jesus and be healed.
4. Both the woman and Jairus went to Jesus as a last resort.
5. Faith is essential.

Reaching out to touch the hem of his garment was all the woman wanted to do. She hoped and then believed that all she needed to do was reach out to Jesus and her faith made her well. If only we had Jesus with us today we could have our sick restored to health. We don't have the physical presence of Jesus here, but we do have the same power by the presence of the Holy Spirit. We just need to believe it.

Mark 16:15-18 ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. ¹⁶ The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the

Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Well here we are at what many believe to be if not the end of the age, very close to it. And we must rely on doctors and hospitals for our healthcare because there are very few healers in Somerset. So, what are we doing wrong?

1. We need to back and relearn the basics. There was a man who was the Son of God whose name was Jesus and he had the power to heal. We need to believe that fully and completely.
2. We need to believe that same Jesus has sent his holy spirit to be among us and those of us who believe and are baptized will be saved. In effect we need to believe that Jesus has touched us.
3. Or we need to believe that Jesus is close enough that we can reach out and touch him. We need to believe and have faith that someone with the power of Jesus in them is close enough for us to touch.
4. Faith is still essential, and faith is what we seem to be lacking the most. We need to quiet the voice of doubt and remember what Jesus taught his disciples is what they taught their followers and it is what we have learned from the Bible.

A few years ago, I did a five part series on the one who believes. One of the most important points was that the one who believes will be able to do what Jesus did and more. Here's my opinion on that. Jesus, even though he was God in the flesh, intentionally limited his sphere of influence by being in a physical body. In other

words, he could only heal those he prayed for or touched. But now with his Holy Spirit in every believer, Jesus can through us do more. You see. If you believe in Jesus, and you share that belief with another who also believes, then there are two of you and if the two get two more and become four, and the four become 16 you can see how it would grow. It's time to start the growth again. It's time to start sharing what you have learned here with others who don't know about Jesus.

I just finished a week at Camp Allegheny and found that there are some children who know the bible very well and there are some who have no idea who Jesus is and what Jesus can do for them. Sadly, their parents are also not very well versed so to speak in the scriptures. They don't realize that the one thing that will save them is the thing that is least important to them right now. God has been replaced by money. We need to help them feel the healing touch of Jesus. We need to help them come to the realization that Jesus should be their first choice and their last resort. And we need to remind ourselves that we who have been touched by Jesus need to help others touch Jesus too.