"THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND"

Matthew 9:18-35

10-1-2017

INTRODUCTION:

***Jesus is willing to touch lives that are suffering, lost, and powerless!**

I. Jesus touched the lives of the <u>LIFELESS</u> (v. 18-19;23-26)

II. Jesus touched the lives of the <u>HELPLESS</u> (v. 20-22)

III. Jesus touched the lives of the <u>SIGHTLESS</u> (v. 27-31)

IV. Jesus touched the lives of the <u>SPEECHLESS</u> (v. 32-34)

V. Jesus touched the lives of the <u>HOPELESS</u> (v. 35, cp. v. 36)

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People crave the compassionate touch of others who care.

EX:--The soothing touch of a mother who strokes the head of her feverish child
--The comforting shoulder you lean on when tragedy strikes
--The encouraging pat on the back for a job well d one

In a "high-tech" society, we need a "high touch" Christianity!

It has been proven that babies that were held and touched developed emotionally whereas those that were not, ended up being emotionally unstable. (EX: The story of "Rosie" - Minneapolis, MN)

The Bible speaks about men whose hearts God had touched (I Sam. 10:26).

To Jeremiah the Bible says: *"The LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORd said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."* (Jer. 1:9)

God assures us: *"Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."* (Isaiah 59:1-2)

Jesus has always been a Savior who reaches out toward those in need. He reached out and touched lepers (Mt. 8:3); the sick (Mt. 8:15); those in need of comfort (mt. 17:7); the blind (Mt. 20:34); the deaf and dumb (Mk. 7:33); the dead (Lk. 7:14); the maimed (EX: cut off ear - Lk. 22:51); the little children (Mk. 10:13; Lk. 18:15)

The key thought in this context is how Jesus touched people's lives and allowed them to touch Him.

SEE: *"Lay thy hand upon her"* (v. 18); *"touched"* (v. 20); *"touch"* (v. 21); *"took her by the hand"* (v. 25); *"then touched he their eyes"* (v. 29)

Jesus touched the lives of the hurting, suffering, helpless, hopeless, etc.

***Jesus is willing to touch lives that are suffering, lost, and powerless!**

I. Jesus touched the lives of the LIFELESS (v. 18-19;23-26)

V. 18

"A certain ruler" - a synagogue official; a spiritual leader of the Jews, like Nicodemus (Jn. 3:1ff). His name was Jairus and he was the elder of the synagogue at Capernaum (cp. Mk. 5:22).

"Worshipped him" - to bow down and worship

The Law forbade bowing down before anything other than God (Exod. 20:5; 23:24). For Christ to receive worship, He must be God!

[NOTE: Peter (Acts 10:25-26), Paul (Acts 14:11-18), and angels (Rev. 19:10) rejected worship (people bowing down to them); but Jesus did not! This is one of the clearest evidences of His deity]

"My daughter" - to lose a loved one is very hard. Especially a 12-year old young daughter (Mk. 5:42). This was his one and only child (Lk. 8:42).

"Even now dead" - she had just died. Even though she was dead, this man had great faith that Jesus could dow hat was humanly impossible.

Jairus was a desperate man. Tragedy often drives a person to Christ. Desperate people don't care what others think. His daughter was on the brink of eternity! It didn't matter what his friends thought; it didn't matter what his religious colleagues would say; it didn't matter what the neighbors would think.

It should not matter to us what people think about Jesus either! His hand is the only one that can save!

Jairus had faith in Jesus:

1) Even though he was a Jew (an orthodox one! - a ruler of the Jews)
2) Even though his daughter was in the jaws of death
3) As evidenced by his worship
4) As evidenced by his words (*"she shall live!"* - What confidence!)

V. 23
"Minstrels" - flute players

"The people making a noise" - the noise involved a tumult of weeping and wailing (both of family and of professional mourners who were hired by the family).

V. 24
"Sleepeth" - a euphemism for death which conveys a bright optimistic hope (believers "sleep" in Jesus - I Th. 4:14; Acts 7:60).

Jesus referred to dead Lazarus (Jn. 11:13-14) as having fallen "asleep" (v. 11). Why? Because of the temporary nature of his death.

By this time, the girl was literally dead; but for Jesus death is nothing more to overcome than waking someone up out of sleep.

Note: The spirit which had left her body (cp. Ja. 2:26) returned into her body again! (Lk. 8:55).

"They laughed him to scorn" - a repeated laughter in a scornful, ridiculing, sarcastic manner.

V. 25
"The people were put forth" - the unbelieving scorners were dismissed from the room.

"He went in" - Jesus, along with Peter, James, John, and the girl's mother and father, went into the room (LK. 8:51).

Jesus reaches down and takes hold of a cold and lifeless hand. As soon as He lifts her by her hand, the blood begins to flow, her heart begins to beat, her lungs take in air -- she stands up alive and well!

Why? Because she was touched by the Master's hand!

Jairus' story teaches us that Jesus can touch the life of a person because of the faith of another.

Intercede! You may be your loved ones' only link to the power of Christ.

II. Jesus touched the lives of the HELPLESS (v. 20-22)

V. 20

"An issue of blood" - hemorrhage (continual bleeding that would not stop; evidently a 12-year period, or menstrual flow, that would not cease)

Her continual bleeding was perhaps due to a tumor or other disease in her uterus.

The continual bleeding no doubt left this woman anemic, pale, and very weak.

This woman spent a fortune on physicians, but man's help was in vain; she even got worse from the doctors' treatments. (Mk. 5:26)

"Like Jairus, this woman knew that only Jesus could help . And just as Jairus daughter had known twelve years of life and laughter with her family, this woman had known twelve years of misery and ostracism from her family." (MacArthur, p. 79)

Although the Law forbade one with a running issue to touch anyone (SEE: Lev. 15:25-27), she had faith that by touching Jesus she would be instantly healed and that Jesus would in no way be defiled. She believed that Christ's divine power would neutralize any uncleanness and would immediately heal her disease.

V. 21

"She said within herself" - imperfect tense - "she repeatedly kept saying to herself"

This woman had inner faith that if she were to just slightly graze the fringe of His mantle she would be instantly cured.

[Important Note: her faith was in Christ, not in any magic in His garment. The power flowed from one wearing the garment, not from the garment itself. The Bible says that virtue (power) went out of Him (Mk. 5:30)]

V. 22

"But Jesus turned him about" - Jesus wanted her to publically declare her faith, so He, knowing that power had gone out from Him to her, said, "*Who touched Me?*" (Mk. 5:30; Lk. 8:45).

We should never be ashamed of anything Jesus does for us, but be willing to publically testify of His grace (EX: baptism; EX: testifying)

"Be of good comfort" - Jesus encourages her because of her great fear (Lk. 8:47). She was afraid of being condemned for defiling Christ.

"Thy faith hath made thee whole" - Just as faith in Christ made her physically whole, faith in Christ makes us spiritually whole. Faith is the l ink between God's power and man's need.

Faith honors God and God honors faith (Heb. 11)

Multitudes of people crowded around Jesus. Many slipped through the throng and touched Him, yet this woman's touch was combined with faith, and her faith cured her (Reason: Because her faith was anchored in the right object - Jesus Christ)

Luke details that she was healed before Jesus spoke. As soon as she touched His garment, *"immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction"* (Lk. 8:46, & Mk. 5:29)

III. Jesus touched the lives of the <u>SIGHTLESS</u> (v. 27-31)

V. 27

"Son of David" - They recognized that Jesus was the promised Messiah in fulfillment of Is. 11:1-5.

V. 28

Notice the <u>persistence</u> of those who sought help from the Master. Jairus sought Him even after his daughter was dead. The woman with the hemorrhage was determined to touch His garment despite the obstacles and crowds. And these two men follow Jesus right into the house.

You will find His powerful hand of mercy also, when you search for Him with all of your heart (Jer. 29:13 - *"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."*)

"Believe ye that I am <u>able</u> to do this?" - We never should doubt the <u>ability</u> of Jesus. We don't question His ability, only His <u>will</u>.

"Their 'Yes, Lord' was the confession that released the power for their hearing (Wiersbe, p. 36).

By the same token, it is by your "Yes, Lord," that you receive salvation from hell, liberation from the distresses of this life.

V. 29

"Then touched He their eyes" - Again, all it takes is a touch from the Master's hand.

Whenever Jesus touches an area of need, it is needy no more!

Their measure of faith was equalled by the measure of healing. They believed he could totally heal their blindness, so he totally gave them their sight!
(no doubt, 20-20 vision!)

When Jesus touched the helpless and hopeless, He infused His power and life into them.

Just as Jesus touched the eyes of the physically blind so they could see, so He must touch the eyes of the spiritually blind (Is. 6:10; Mt. 15:14; Rom. 11:25) so they can be illuminated (Heb. 6:4; 10:32).

It is ironic how Jesus tells them not to broadcast the miracle, and yet they do. Then He tells us to broadcast the Gospel and so often we don't.

IV. Jesus touched the lives of the <u>SPEECHLESS</u> (v. 32-34)

V. 32

"Dumb" - He could not talk; the demon which possessed him tied his tongue so that he could not speak.

V. 33

"It was never so seen in Israel" - Not prior and not since. Nothing so spectacular and powerful was ever done, because no one ever had power like Jesus!

V. 34

The Pharisees falsely accused Jesus of casting out demons by Satan's (called "Beelzebub") power, not heavenly power.

Because they could not deny the reality or validity of Christ's miracles, they then attributed them to Satan.

This was actually blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, who was the power behind the miracles (cp. Mt. 12:27, 28, 31)

V. Jesus touched the lives of the <u>HOPELESS</u> (v. 35, cp. v. 36)

V. 35

According to the ancient Jewish historian Josephus, the Galilean region at that time had some two hundred cities and villages in an area of about 40 miles wide and 70 miles long (cited by MacArthur, p. 103)

Jesus traveled everywhere, teaching, preaching, and healing.

Note the emphasis of verse 35 - ***"All . . . every . . . every . . ."*** No one is outside of the power of Jesus Christ!

V. 36

Note the hopeless condition of people without Jesus, the Great Shepherd.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus, though in Heaven, is still touching lives today! And those He touches, He transforms!

POEM: (the violin story) *"The Touch of the Master's Hand"*