



HEALING TOUCH

February 2015

In one of the villages, Jesus met a man with an advanced case of leprosy. When the man saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground, begging to be healed. "Lord," he said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean."

Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared.

Luke 5:12-13 (NLT)

In the days when Jesus walked the earth, leprosy was a contagious skin disease making outcasts of the sufferers. They were banned from living with the friends and family they knew and loved. When the leper in this story asked Jesus if He was willing to heal him, Jesus responded with compassion, touching the man and healing him.

Consider the great love Jesus must have felt for this "untouchable," to willingly reach out to him and touch him like that! It's one thing to have compassion and heal a lame man or a blind man, but to lay hands on a person with ugly sores all over his body? How great the love of Jesus!

In a recent sermon, my pastor asked, "Who are the untouchables in *our* world?"

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Such a good question that is! Who do we hesitate to have anything to do with in this world today? Who needs our healing attentiveness?

We can't completely cure others as Jesus did, but could we not—in our own way—help others feel better through how we treat them? Could we provide compassion in the way Jesus' life has taught us? Are we willing to pass along a word of encouragement? Could we offer a comforting touch on the shoulder to someone who is “different” from us?

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