



He Touched Me: Never an Empty Hand! **Luke 5.12-13**

While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will.; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him.

The Point: Come to him as your Lord; his hand is filled with mercy.

The Question: Am I ever beyond his touch?

Touched through His creation

Elohim—the God of all creation!

Touched through His word

The eternal *logos*

Touched through His Holy Spirit moved saints

Lights in darkness and sound in a fog

A hand of

Mercy
Guidance
Correction
Rebuke
Teaching
Compassion

Call him Lord!

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The sense of touch is a wonderful gift from God. Touch is the beginning of intimacy; the seed of couplehood is holding hands. Few allow touch without warning or permission. Generally, a medical provider will inform you they are about to stick, poke or prod your body. Look up *touch(ed)* in your Bible Concordance, and in the New Testament, 20 of the 24 times it is Jesus touching. It is used most tellingly in our text.

The leper was forbidden the comfort of human touch. He had to announce his presence and cry, “leper—unclean!” He wasn’t allowed to draw water from a well. If he had an injury, no one could bind his wound. The disease was ugly; injuries caused the loss of toes and fingers and unsightly lesions and nodules on the skin. The only company you were allowed to keep were other lepers. Touching a leper would cost one weeks of isolation, and they would miss worship, fellowship, and family events. The leper asked Jesus to heal him. *And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will.; be clean.”* The last thing he expected was to receive a human touch! Oh, the touch of the Savior! But you must ask. God wants to touch you.

God created the earth and the universe that contains it out of nothingness into the place we live our mortal lives—then placed all of it from his hands to ours. Thus, every breath one takes, every morsel one eats, or drop of water one drinks is a gift from the hands of God.

God touches you through his word from Genesis 1.1 to Revelation 22.21. “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*” . . . “*The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.*” We read his commands, promises, works, and interaction with humanity. But, most importantly, we see the few successes and many failures of his people and the incredible mercy and grace he provides when his people fail.

God touches you through his kingdom on earth—sojourners on this earthly plane. He calls the believer to touch with words and empathy.

He touches with purpose!

Call Him Lord—the leper did and was healed.