

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1545

September 29, 2024

Matthew 8:2-3, “²And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. ³And Jesus put forth [his] hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”

The above passage is the first time in the Bible we have recorded where Jesus touched someone. Surely He had done so before, but this is a very significant event to be recorded as the first time Jesus touched someone.

The recipient of Jesus’s touch was not any ordinary person. The person Jesus touched was a leper. The leper said that Jesus could make him clean if Jesus willed it. Jesus did.

Jesus could have healed the leper at this point, but before Jesus healed him, Jesus touched him. Jesus touched a leper. This was something that simply was not done. Leprosy is a disease that can be transferred to others. Lepers were required by the law to cry out, “Unclean, unclean.”

Not only that, but to come into contact with a leper or any uncleanness made one unclean until the evening and until they washed in water. Leviticus 22:5-6, “⁵Or whosoever toucheth any creeping thing, whereby he may be made unclean, or a man of whom he may take uncleanness, whatsoever uncleanness he hath; ⁶The soul which hath touched any such shall be unclean until even, and shall not eat of the holy things, unless he wash his flesh with water.”

Jesus could have simply healed Him, but He was willing to make Himself unclean ceremonially until evening. This speaks volumes about how Jesus was willing to be literally close to others, and even touch them, when others would not.

2. After hearing the voice at the transfiguration, the disciples were afraid and fell on their faces. We are told that Jesus touched them. Matthew 17:6-7, “⁶And when the disciples heard [it], they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. ⁷And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.” Jesus could have simply told them not to be afraid. But, His great compassion lead Him to touch them. How often does simply a touch from someone on the shoulder give us comfort. Jesus knew what it meant to others to have the compassion of a gentle touch.

3. After the ear of Malchus was cut off by Peter wielding his sword, Jesus healed Malchus. Luke 22:51, “*And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.*” Malchus was with the band of men who came to Jesus to lead Him away to His trial and crucifixion. No doubt Malchus was in great pain and bleeding, but even during the most intense and emotionally draining time of Jesus’s earthly life, He took time to touch and heal someone else who was suffering. That someone was with the men who took Jesus to kill Him.

4. In Mark 9 Jesus drove a foul spirit from a young man. When Jesus commanded the spirit to come out, and not to return, the spirit tore
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Munfordville Church of Christ
104 Back St — P.O. Box 322
Munfordville, KY 42765

Marty Edwards, Minister
(270) 528-1298

www.munfordvillechurchofchrist.com

martywedwards@gmail.com

Sunday 9am,10am,12pm; 6pm (Online) — Wednesday 6pm (Online)

News

—Continue to remember **Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Enola Zigler, Ken & Erin Davis, Becky Hatcher, Richard Connolly, Larry Compton, Linda Terry, Rick Gibbs, Sandy Duncan, Jerry Reynolds, Betty Franklin, Lauren Candela, Alice**

Vanderstoep and Jeff Burd.

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the young man, and he was like one dead. The people even thought the young man was dead. In Mark 9:27 we are told, “*But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.*” Jesus could have asked someone to lift the young man, but Jesus took him by the hand.

5. In Revelation 1 Jesus shows Himself to John as He begins to tell John the things to write. John sees Jesus in appearance like he had never seen Jesus during his ministry. John might have been overcome with the emotion of seeing Jesus after nearly 60 years, and no doubt the glorious appearance of Jesus possibly overcame John. We are told in Revelation 1:17, “*And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.*” Jesus could have simply spoken the word, but again, with compassion, Jesus laid His right hand upon John, and told him not to fear.

We can learn much from the compassion of Jesus. We need not be afraid to approach those who are different, downtrodden, live in vastly different places and lives, and in need of the Gospel. Even if we are not in a position to physically touch them, we need to touch their hearts and lives with the soul-saving Gospel.

Let’s have the compassion of Jesus and reach out and touch people with the Gospel and show them the love of Jesus.

—Marty Edwards❖

Sunday, September 22, 2024		
Classes	12	Luke 15:11-32
Preaching	22	Revelation 22:16 - The Morning Star
Contribution	\$968.00	
Afternoon	8	III John 1-14; Genesis 23:1-20

Bible Quiz

Abraham paid for Sarah’s burying place with 400 what?

Last Week’s Answer— Joy (Luke 15:7, 10)

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¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

—Hebrews 4:15-16

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)