

A man with covered with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean - you can heal me!” Luke 5:12-15, Mark 1:40 composite NIV

Jesus healed a man who was completely covered with leprosy, which demonstrated a great perspective on God’s will and omnipotence, despite the man’s suffering. He clearly had lived with this condition for a long time, and it had attacked much of his body. Did the man wonder why God had allowed him to contract this isolation-demanding disease? Yet he still offered himself on his knees to this man who he realized had the God-like power to heal.

With such a disease¹, the man had certainly lost feeling in certain areas of his skin. Thus, Jesus, by touching him, brought back his ability to feel in a physical sense (healing more than just cleansing of his skin). Imagine how the man felt at being able to feel the power of God in a deeply personal sense. Think of the man’s feeling of exhilaration at finding himself whole!

This makes me wonder about others that Jesus touched (or was touched by), even those He touched in a different sense. The woman with an issue of blood that touched Christ likely felt the same rush of healing and power. Immediately, her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed² from her suffering. In contrast to the leper, the woman’s pain ended and she could feel it no more – but she still felt the power of the healing event.

Perhaps everyone that Jesus touched felt a type of exhilaration, that made them closer to Him in a more intimate sense. Some people were insensitive to His Touch; but others flocked around Him, reaching out to Him. Think of the centurion at the cross – even he was sensitive enough to be “touched” by the power of Christ. Also, consider the response of the two walking to Emmaus, who reported “Were not our *hearts burning within us* while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”³

I can relate this in a spiritual sense to our own contact with God. We all need to have the ability to feel God’s presence and healing. This is a level of healing higher than the mere physical – and one that we need infinitely more! Through it we feel an awesome power that transcends the physical and can bring us much nearer to God.

1. leprosy; i.e., Hansen’s disease
2. Mark 5:29
3. Luke 24:32 (emphasis by the author)