

Hearing the Voice of Jesus: What it Means to Follow Him Today

November-January

Wednesday Evening Lessons



Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **November 11—“Follow Me”**
- **November 18—“Listen to Me”**
- **November 25—[Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner]**



Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **December 2—“Understand Me”**
- **December 9—“Crowd Me”**
- **December 16—“Touch Me”**
- **December 23—“Interrupt Me”**
- **December 30—“Fear Me”**



Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **January 6—“Believe Me”**
- **January 13—“Pray with Me”**
- **January 20—“Suffer with Me”**
- **January 27—“Preach Me”**



December 16—Touch Me”

Introduction

- **Children’s museum—“TOUCHING REQUIRED AT NEW AREA MUSEUM”**
- **Someone refuses to shake your hand**
- **“Don’t touch me!”**
- **Jesus’ touch symbolized God’s relationship with the human race**



Introduction

- **Jesus understood the power of touch and made it central in His ministry.**



Jesus' *Touch* in Mark's Gospel

- Mark 1:30-31—Jesus *took her hand*
- Mark 1:41—Jesus *touched the man*
- Mark 3:10—They were pushing forward *to touch him*
- Mark 5:24—large crowd *pressed around him*
- Mark 5:28—she *touched* his cloak
--If I just *touch* his clothes

Jesus' *Touch* in Mark's Gospel

- **Mark 5:41—He took her by the hand**
- **Mark 6:56—all who touched him**
- **Mark 7:32, 33—he touched the man's tongue**
- **Mark 8:23, 25—He took the blind man by the hand**
- **Mark 9:26-27—Jesus took the dead boy by the hand**

Jesus' *Touch* in Mark's Gospel

- Jesus touched the “untouchable”—the diseased, the guilty, the outcasts, the dead, etc.



Hebrews 4:15

- **15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.**



Hebrews 4:15

- **We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with feeling of our infirmities (KJV)**
- **Jesus touched with...because he was touched by!**



Matthew 25:35-36



- **³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'**

- **Jesus taught that the Kingdom was reserved for those who touched the needy.**



No-touch Attitudes

- **Mark 2:16—why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?**
- **Mark 10:13—why are you touching these children?**
- **Mark 10:46-48—Bartimaeus rebuked**

Fragmented society. Walls separated classes of people. Distance was measured in units of resentment, alienation, and pride.

The Physical Power of Touch



- **Jesus touched disease**
- **Some had not been touched in years**
- **Jesus touched them all**
- **“...His touch soothed, healed and revealed his desire to help. In Jesus’ touch was physical power. But his touch went even deeper.”**
- **Critical for ministry of reconciliation**

The Physical Power of Touch

- Rubbing people the wrong way
- Get in touch with someone
- That person has a soft touch
- Some are touchy
- Others are thick-skinned
- Deeply felt experience
- Tactful in a tactless world, then & now



The Emotional Power of Touch

- Psychologist James Lynch,
- *The Broken Heart*
- “I have been struck by the way most people finally say good-bye...Just before leaving, they will stop speaking and silently hold the patient’s hand or touch his body or even stand at the foot of the bed and hold the patient’s foot.”



The Emotional Power of Touch



- **“More often than not, the final good-bye does not involve words, almost as if words alone were insufficient to communicate their true feelings. The most simple and direct type of human communication does not need words.”**

The Emotional Power of Touch



- In spite of health hazards and public opinion, Jesus reached out to a person's deepest fears and anxieties.
- This emotional concern lies behind Galatians 6:2.
- In our sterile, technological culture—closeness, touch, intimacy needed now more than ever! How ironic! [Jesus]

The Spiritual Power of Touch

- Your sins are forgiven (Mark 2:5, 10)
- When we consider the spiritual power of touch, as we learn it from Jesus, six terms:
 1. Presence (Mt. 1:23; Psalm 46:1)
 2. Identification—bridging the gap
 3. Affirmation—dignity
 4. Security—reassuring touch
 5. Affection—love, gentleness, forgiving, meaning, comfort and hope!





Conclusion

- **Touch of Jesus was physical, emotional and spiritual in nature**
- **Appropriate aspects of touching can be healing**
- **Tool available for ministry of reconciliation**
- **Fundamental connection in the spiritual life**