



There is something about a touch.
Sometimes it is more powerful than a word.
It can be more convincing than a promise.
It is a point or contact between two people.
In the human realm, it is a necessary help in times of trouble and,
Interestingly, we also find it in the world of animals.

Today,

We begin a series called, "The Touch Of Jesus."

We will see Him touch people with various needs and hurts.

But today we will begin with the most personal and life-changing touch, when He touches your heart.

We will look at 3 incidents where Jesus touched hearts.

1. A woman named Mary

Lu 10:38 *Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.*

Martha was a very hospitable type. Jesus and His disciples would often stop by there when they were in Bethany and she would welcome them and prepare them a meal.

Mary was little different from her sister.

v.39 *She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.*

Mary wasn't thinking about food for the body but food for the soul.

v.40 *But Martha was distracted with all her preparations;*

"distracted" drawn away

and she came up to Him – she burst in

Oh, she was distraught

After all, she had 12 mouths to feed, and she wanted help with the work.

and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

Notice;

She didn't ask Mary to step in to the kitchen, she went over her head, right to the top!

It's too bad she didn't go to Mary, herself because I believe this is what Mary would have said.

Martha, I know you are working in the kitchen to prepare food but something happened to me.

When I met Jesus He touched my heart and now I'm a different person.

It's not that I don't want to help you with the preparations but there is something higher here.

God's Word is filling my soul.

I find myself wanting more and more.

But,

She didn't go to Mary she went to Jesus:

v.41 *But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;*

v.42 *but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."*

Jesus concurred with what Mary would have said. "She has chosen the good part."

"good part" *agathos meris* – the good portion

Ie.

The best dish on the table.

You see,

When you experience the touch of Jesus in your heart, your heart changes, and you change.

2. The walk down the road to Emmaus

After Jesus was crucified, the disciples felt alone, that is, until Jesus returned in His resurrection body.

Two believers in Jesus are walking toward the village of Emmaus. Jesus starts walking with them but they don't recognize Him.

They were discouraged so Jesus took them through the Scriptures to show them all that happened with Him was prophesied to happen.

Then, they invited Jesus to their home for dinner.

Lu 24:30 *When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them.*

v.31 *Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.*

Here it comes, the heart touch!

v.32 *They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us (to kindle a fire)*

while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

You see;

When Jesus touches your heart,

1. You come alive to Him and discouragement flees
2. You have a new hunger for His word over other things

Thirdly;

3. It changes your whole life

Jesus liked to go down to the coast of the Sea of Gallilee. There He would talk to the fishermen or whoever else was there about the Kingdom of God.

Mk 1:16 *As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.*

v.17 *And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."*

v.18 *Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.*

v.19 *Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.*

v.20 *Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.*

I find it hard to believe that this was the first encounter the disciples had with Jesus. For who would walk away and follow a stranger?

Yet,

Perhaps in their many, or at least several meetings together on the coast, the hearts of the disciples were being prepared.

Sometime along that way,

they felt the touch of Jesus, so much so, that when He called them, they immediately left what they were doing and followed Him.

- Family
- Vocation
- Security

What do you think the conversation was like when James and John left

their father in the boat with the servants?

I think it may have gone like this.

Father, we met a man, Jesus of Nazareth, He spoke in a way we never heard before and told us things we never knew before.

He came by everyday and we listened intently. It really stirred our hearts and then today, He called us to follow Him.

Something inside of us couldn't resist for we knew this was the right thing to do.

So father, we are leaving the nets and going fishing for men."

When Jesus truly touches your heart, your life changes; your values change, your priorities and purpose change.

So notice what happened to these people when Jesus touches the heart:

1. You have a new hunger for His word over other things
2. You come alive to Him and discouragement flees
3. Your whole life changes and you start living for a higher cause.

Question:

Has Jesus truly touched your heart? I mean truly.

If so, that's beautiful.

If not yet, open up to Him and let Him in.