



<sup>11</sup> And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. <sup>12</sup> Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. <sup>13</sup> And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, **Weep not.** <sup>14</sup> And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, **Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.** <sup>15</sup> And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. <sup>16</sup> And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God. (Luke 7:11-16)

There are many different kinds of touches – the touch of love, the touch of art, the touch of accomplishment, or even being ‘touched’ in the head; but the touch of Christ is an altogether different touch than that we experience in the mortal sense – it is a touch of life, of healing, and of forgiveness. F.B. Meyer speaks of eight touches of the Lord that are blessings. I will briefly discuss each and add one of my own.

**There is the touch of faith.** This touch does not depend upon whether God touches us, or we touch Him. It is the element of faith that makes the Divine connection. *“And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, **Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.** And the woman was made whole from that hour.”* (Matt 9:20-22) It is not the physical touch that benefits, but the faith that is represented therein. All of the devices and wisdom of man had not helped this woman. She actually spent all of her wealth seeking a cure for her ailment. In the process, she lost all of her wealth and grew continually worse. Going it on our own will always be a downward path to penury, but coming to Christ is the upward Way that heals and restores! She believed Christ could heal. She believed that He was divine and holy – so much so that coming so close as to merely touch His garment would evoke the healing she sought – and she was RIGHT! Her faith (in Christ) had healed her. The touch of faith is available to every sinner afflicted with the disease of sin.

**There is a touch of cleansing.** In our hospitals and other medical treatment facilities, the staff wears gloves anytime they touch a patient. This is not to offend the patient, but to protect the medical professional from any diseases that might be transmitted by the touch. Our Lord Jesus Christ was a bit more personal and feeling than that. He did not hesitate to touch the most egregiously afflicted with his naked hand. If you have ever witnessed a leper in his latter stages of the disease you will know that touching such a person would be reprehensible to us. Their running and open sores, rotting flesh, and offensive odors are beyond our usual capacity to confront, or even get near to. *“And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. **And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean.** And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”* (Matt 8:2-3) Lepers were considered so unclean that they were required to shout, “UNCLEAN!” at the approach of others. Amazingly, the faith of this leper did not compel him to shout “unclean” prior to approaching Jesus, for he knew that Jesus was the Great Physician and that no disease could stand against Him. The touch of Jesus brought immediate healing and restoration! Jesus touched even the filthy sores and body of a leper. To be honest, we are all lepers before Christ.

**There is a touch of cooling.** When the fever of life bears down on us and there seems to be no escape, there is yet a Balm in Gilead – the Lord Jesus Christ. *“And when Jesus was come into Peter’s house, he saw his wife’s mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.”* (Matt 8:14-15) Peter’s mother was gravely ill of fever, but Jesus touched her hand only, and she arose and saw to the needs of her guests. There is a great lesson there for us. When God heals us, or rescues us from the swirling waters, we are not to waste our time on trivial matters. We are to arise and minister to others. The same touch that healed us may be transmitted through our own touch of love and compassion toward others.

**There is a touch that opens.** Jesus is the DOOR to the Sheepfold, and only He can open to us. He is the key of opening of dumb ears and blind eyes. *“And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, **Believe ye that I am able to do this?** They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it unto you.** And their eyes were opened.”* (Matt 9:27-30) The touch of Jesus ALWAYS brings healing because disease and death cannot exist in its present. Undertakers of his day went out of business because the graves kept opening to release their dead. But faith must accompany the touch!

**There is a touch that comforts and assures.** Remember the experience of Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Transfiguration? The Voice of God spoke and they trembled with fear. *“. . . behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.** And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, **Arise, and be not afraid.** And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.”* (Matt 17:5-8) No matter the severity of the storm, Jesus comes and touches the helmsman and all is still and steady. It is true of the seas, and it is true of our souls. One of the greatest feelings of my life was a special touch at the right moment. If I messed up in sports, or in academics, my dad would come and place his hand on my shoulder and say, “It is OK, son. Just keep in the game!” That took away the sting of defeat and made me want to be better.

**There is a touch that sets free and loosens.** Every man without Christ is in bondage to sin. There is no such thing as "Free Will" in a godless life, for the master of sin is Satan. It is his will we obey when we are separated from God. Even our faculties are held captive by sin and its deleterious effects. *"And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain."* (Mark 7:32-35) When Christ touches us, our own mouths are opened to proclaim the Gospel, and our ears are opened to learn of Him.

**There is a touch that blesses.** This touch is the one that melts my own heart for it is illustrated in the love and compassion of the Gentle Savior for little children. *"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."* (Mark 10:13-16) I often wish that I had a record of the lives of these children after that touch of Jesus. Today, churches try to separate children from the worship service just as these disciples tried to keep them from Christ. But the Lord disapproves of such a separation. He desires, above all others, to have the young children to come unto Him before their lives are marred and scarred by unrestrained sin. He wants us, as a matter of fact, to become more like these innocent and trusting children. His touch always blesses and makes glad.

**There is a touch of restoration to life.** Every repentant sinner who has come to Christ has received this touch of restoration to life. *"Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother."* (Luke 7:12-15) The first thing the young man, restored to life, did when the Lord touched his bier was to sit up and SPEAK. How can we remain silent when the Lord has forgiven, justified and restored us to life! We were all dead in trespasses and sins until the Lord quickened our souls and made us alive. (Ephesians 2).

**Finally, there is a touch that heals.** The healing of the nations is offered by the Lord, but the nations seem to deem that the last resort. *"And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him."* (Luke 22:50-51) Jesus even healed those who came to bear Him away for crucifixion. He did so because He knew that they did not know who He was. But Jesus was not so gentle toward the rulers of the Jews and the Pharisees. He called them out as *"a generation of vipers"* and *"children of their father, the devil."* He treated them in that manner because He knew that were aware of who He was and yet rejected Him for the sake of power and prestige.

I hope every reader of this devotion has been touched by Christ and will never reject the Savior of your souls.