

More Than an Invisible Faith

His Body Then

Healing

Matt 8:3 – He touched unclean leper

Matt 8:15 – He touched Peter’s mother in law to heal her fever

Luke 22:50-51 – He touched the severed ear of a servant

Matt 9:29, 20:34 – He touched eyes of blind people

Mark 7:33 – He touched the tongue and ears of a mute man

Luke 7:14 – He touched the coffin of the widow’s son in Nain to resuscitate him

Matt 9:25, Mark 9:27 – A dead girl and a demon possessed by the hand to revive them

Mark 3:10, Matt 9:20-21 – No wonder then that sick people came to Jesus to touch him and his clothing.

Jesus cared for people out of genuine concern, but even more than that these are appropriately seen to be foretastes of the resurrection when we will truly see, truly hear, truly be clean, and truly be raised forever.

Salvation

Acts 2:27 “For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.”

Abandon my soul to Hades – the soul will be saved

Let your Holy One see corruption – the body will be saved

Luke 23:33 “And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him.”

He accomplished salvation through his bodily crucifixion. His body was broken so we may be saved.

His Body Now

Three key passages

John 14:12-14

Acts 1:1-2

Ephesians 4:11-16

More available than ever

“Jesus is now much more available and accessible to us than ever in his earthly ministry. Let me state this as sharply and paradoxically as I can: Jesus deals with us more physically and spiritually now than before his ascension.” – John Kleinig

Jesus in and through the gathered church

The word for church is ecclesia, which literally means “gathering or assembly.”

So What?

Duty – We need to be in close enough proximity to be Christ to one another

Grace – Recognize that Christ is working through others to love and serve you.

Mission – We must be Christ in the world, for he has left no one else to this task.

Questions for Personal Study

1. What is the church? What does Ephesians 4 say about the church?
2. Look at 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. Why is it important to value each person’s contribution to the church?
3. How do you reconcile Christ working through the church with the church’s failures and flaws?
4. Are you connected to other believers? Do you need to take a “next step” in that area?