

## Sermon Summary: "The Master's Touch" (Mark 9:30-37)

In this message from the series on Jesus' journey from cross to tomb to resurrection, Pastor Jim Lowery (filling in for Missy) explores the profound power and importance of touch in human life—its role in communicating love, well-being, and healing—contrasted with the devastating effects of its absence (e.g., historical observations of infants failing to thrive without affectionate touch) or misuse. Through Peter's perspective in Mark 9:30-37, where Jesus predicts His death and resurrection yet redirects the disciples' argument about greatness by embracing a child, the sermon highlights Jesus as the "Master" whose touch meets people at their deepest needs—often with hands that heal, restore, and bless. Jesus' touch transforms isolation into inclusion, and today, believers continue that ministry as His hands extended to the world.

### Fleshed-Out Sermon Notes

**Title:** The Master's Touch **Scripture:** Mark 9:30-37 (Jesus predicts His death a second time, teaches on true greatness through servanthood, and embraces a child: "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.") **Series Context:** Following last week's "Set His Face" (Jesus' resolve toward the cross), this week views events from Peter's eyes.

#### I. The Power and Importance of Touch in Life

- Touch communicates love, security, well-being, and affirmation—even during correction.
- Absence of touch is harmful: Historical examples (e.g., post-WW observations of institutionalized infants in control vs. no-touch groups) show failure to thrive physically/emotionally; some did not survive.
- Wrongful/inappropriate touch causes deep tragedy.
- Positive touch builds connection and healing.

#### II. The Master's Touch: Jesus' Hands in Action (From Peter's View)

- Peter witnessed Jesus' hands repeatedly:
  - First encounter: Jesus took Peter's mother-in-law by the hand and healed her fever (implied in Mark 1:31 context).
  - Jesus held and blessed children (as in Mark 9:36, taking a child in His arms).
  - Healed with a word (e.g., Lazarus raised by command, John 11).
  - Took the hand of Jairus' dead daughter and raised her (Mark 5:41).
  - Touched the ostracized leper (Mark 1:41): The man, isolated and unclean, said, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus, moved (indignant/compassionate), reached out, touched him, and said, "I am willing. Be clean!"—instantly changing his life.
  - Two-stage healing of the blind man (Mark 8:23, 25): Jesus spit on eyes, laid hands, then touched again for full sight.
- Jesus touches at the point of our deepest need—physical, emotional, spiritual—breaking isolation and restoring wholeness.

### **III. Practical and Cultural Notes on Touch**

- Respect boundaries: Some dislike hugs or head touches (intimate acts); in church, use open-handed blessings/anointing communally.
- Symbolic imagery: On the cross, Jesus' hands were open and facing out—an ultimate picture of blessing and invitation.
- Open hands represent Jesus' touch of blessing and healing.

### **IV. Jesus Touches Today Through His Church**

- Acts shows continuation: In Acts 3:7, Peter takes the lame man by the right hand, lifts him up in Jesus' name—feet and ankles strengthened, healed.
- Luke notes in Acts what Jesus "began to do and teach" (Acts 1:1)—we are His ongoing hands and touch in the world.
- Application: Have you been touched by the Master? Have you heard His call to extend that touch to others?

**Closing:** Praise God for those touched and those who serve as His hands.

### **Reflection Questions for Further Thought**

1. Reflect on a time when someone's "touch"—a kind word, encouragement, prayer, or literal gesture—met you at a point of deep need. How did it reflect (or could reflect) the Master's touch in your life?
2. In what areas of your life or relationships might you need to receive or extend more of Jesus' transforming touch today—perhaps through humility, service to the "least," or simply being open to His healing presence?