

JUST A TOUCH

Pastor Jay Heiss | July 23, 2023

I. AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER.

Matthew 14:22–27 (NLT)

Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

II. THREE WAYS A TOUCH FROM JESUS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

1. *A Touch from Jesus Can Empower Your Faith*

Matthew 14:28–29 (NLT)

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

"Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

2. *A Touch from Jesus Can Rescue You from Faithlessness*

Matthew 14:30–33 (NLT)

But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

“I’ve missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I’ve been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.”

- Michael Jordan -

- **Don’t allow your failures to form your identity**
- **Let your faith-failures become your faith-forming moments**

Matthew 16:16–18 (NIV)

Simon Peter answered, **“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”**

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that **you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

“Being a Christian is not about perfection, it is about dedication” - John Zick

3. A Touch from Jesus Will Heal You.

Matthew 14:34–36 (NIV)

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, *and all who touched it were healed.*

Matthew 9:19–22 (NLT)

So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She *touch*ed the fringe of his robe, for she thought, “If I can *just touch* his robe, I will be healed.”

Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, “Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well.” *And the woman was healed at that moment.*

- **Worship is the response to the life-saving power of Jesus.**

Matthew 14:33 (NIV)

Then those who were in the boat *worshiped him*, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”