

TOUCHED BY JESUS**MONDAY 6/11/23**

PSALM 33:1-12//1 Let the godly sing for joy to the Lord; it is fitting for the pure to praise him.2 Praise the Lord with melodies on the lyre; make music for him on the ten-stringed harp.

MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26// 9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. 10 Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.

REFLECTION This story is early on in Jesus' ministry. The idea of inviting a tax collector to be His disciple is radical and outrageous! People are thinking Jesus is supposed to be a holy man, a prophet, a man sent by God. Surely He would surround himself with righteous people. Of all the people to choose from, the last would be a tax collector. Jesus is clear who He desires to follow Him. Luke 18:9-14 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." I wonder, as we enter the month of June, do we want to be a people who exalt themselves, or are we people who humble themselves before God? Jesus loves the depressed, the confused, the abused, and the rejected. To follow Jesus we must humble ourselves and confess like the tax collector. It is our conceit that stops us from accepting this truth. We all are all sinners in the sight of a Holy God. We all need to receive God's love and forgiveness.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you for never giving up on me as a sinner. Thank you for inviting me to read your Word where I discovered the truth about myself and your love for me. In Jesus name Amen.

TUESDAY 6/12/23

PSALM 33:1-12//3 Sing a new song of praise to him; play skillfully on the harp, and sing with joy.4 For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does.

MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26// 11 But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" 12 When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do."

REFLECTION Jesus might shock us by eating with sinners, but the whole point of His life is dedicated to us, the sinners. The rulers of the Temple attack Jesus and His disciples in order to create a revolt against Him. Jesus engages these sinners to teach His disciples who they are to minister to in the future. These rulers do not accept Christ's office of righteousness. They also deny God's sovereign plan of redemption. It is stunning how these Jewish rulers do not see themselves as sinners. They criticize Jesus for offering the people who need the love of God the most. We clearly see their arrogance. Pride is the reason they have a contempt for everything Jesus does. One of our most menacing sins is we foolishly trust in our own righteousness. Our Savior was sent into the world, in part, to show us just how deeply flawed the human heart has become. 1 John 2:16 "For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world."

PRAYER Heavenly Father, I sing praise to you for you have changed my heart and mind. You have brought me to the end of myself so I might see who I really am. And praise you for lifting me up to new life. In Jesus Name Amen.

WEDNESDAY 6/13/23

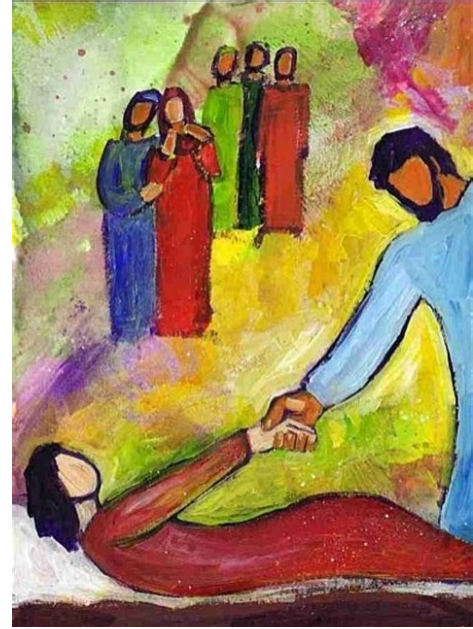
PSALM 33:1-12//5 He loves whatever is just and good; the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth.⁶ The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born.

MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26// 13 Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

REFLECTION Jesus was perfectly clear; these hypocritical rulers are unwilling to learn from the scriptures. He explains to them they are in the state of pride which prevents the healing of the sick. These Temple leaders should know Hosea

6:6: “For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt-offerings.” God does not delight in people whose sacrifices are meaningless because their minds are empty of reverence. The knowledge of God is better than burnt-offerings. The truth is, God’s grace brings to us salvation and it appeals to all of humanity. Titus 2:11-14, 11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

PRAYER Lord may my offering be a willingness to listen to you and not the outside world. In Jesus Name Amen



THURSDAY 6/14/23

PSALM 33:1-12//7 He assigned the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs.⁸ Let the whole world fear the Lord, and let everyone stand in awe of him. 9 For when he spoke, the world began! It appeared at his command.

MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26//18 -19 As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before him. “My daughter has just died,” he said, “but you can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand on her.” 19 So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him.

REFLECTION This story was told by all three authors of the Gospel; Luke 8, Mark 5, and now Matthew. This indicates to me it this story was told over and over again. We hear Jairus knelt down to give Jesus reverence and honor Him. Even though Jarius is of the ruling class he acknowledges Jesus is a special person of God. He came to Jesus and asked him to cure his daughter. Before Jesus enters Jairus’s house He is mocked and laughed at because they believe the daughter is dead. He saw Jesus as a prophet from God but does not seem to accept Jesus as divinity. Fellow leaders from the Temple would likely cast out Jairus because he confides in Jesus. He no longer cares about his status and he wants his daughter to live again. Jairus is willing to cast aside his religious and social ranking and accept Jesus’ help. Jesus does not refuse him, and brings the daughter back to life. Jesus has come to us too by raise us from the dead.

PRAYER May I not live a dead life, may I use what you have given me. Help me guide others to you so they too may have new life. In Jesus Name Amen.

FRIDAY 6/15/23

PSALM 33:1-12//10 The Lord frustrates the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes 11 But the Lord's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken.

MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26// 20 Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, 21 for she thought, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed." 22 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.

REFLECTION Some of us might have experienced a long illness and know very well how it effects your lives. This woman suffered for 12 years and she spent all of her money on physicians. She believed if she could just touch His robe she would be healed. Notice how shy and inconspicuous she acts. She does not want to bother Jesus. This miracle shows the true power of Jesus in the flesh. It says to each of us, just reach out in faith and He will heal our hearts. As we reach out in "faith" we too are granted new life. We are touched by Jesus everytime we listen to His Word being taught. The power of the Holy Spirit is active in the hearing of God's Word. That is if we have faith and believe in it. We too are healed and rise up to new life.

PRAYER May my faith and belief be as strong as this woman's. Praise you Holy Spirit for healing my soul. In Jesus Name, Amen

SATURDAY 6/16/23

PSALM 33:1-12//12 What joy for the nation whose God is the Lord, whose people he has chosen as his inheritance.

MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26// 23 When Jesus arrived at the official's home, he saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music. 24 "Get out!" he told them. "The girl isn't dead; she's only asleep." But the crowd laughed at him. 25 After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up! 26 The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside.

REFLECTION Matthew tells us what it is like when Jesus arrived at Jarius' house. The flutist were playing funeral music and the people were crying and mourning over the death of this young girl. Jesus goes with Jarius to show the people the power of God to raise the dead. That is true for all of us today. God's grace is sufficient to transform us and raise us from the dead. I think sometimes God would be more liberal in communicating to us, if we were not so sceptical about our faith. We are bombared in this world with information that keeps our minds away from a deeper faith in God. When we are dubiuos about our faith it inhibits us from recieving more of God's gifts. We are taught, by the world to be cautious about our faith. Jesus is displaying His magnificent power of His touch upon us. Vs. 25:"Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up!" While we are alive in this body, we receive a small portion of the divine goodness God has planned for us. When I read this story I am reminded of Jesus teaching about faith as small as a mustard seed. We can do miraculous things if only we believe. Praise God for the promise of the resurrection from the dead.

PRAYER Lord Jesus lift me up by your touch and allow me the faith of a mustard seed. Help me overcome my unbelief and to trust you more and more. In Jesus Name Amen.

