

General Church Education



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Family Lesson 31-E

Who Touched Me?
Mark 5

Family Talk:
“WHO TOUCHED ME?”

Rev. Peter M. Buss

On His way to save a little girl who was dying, the Lord did another miracle. He helped a woman who had been sick for twelve years. These two stories, told together, help us understand ways in which the Lord helps us.

The better miracle was His healing of the little girl. Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue (that means that he was a very important man in the Jewish church), had only one little daughter, and she was dying. When Jesus got to the house, she had already died, and everyone was crying. Jesus told them that she was only asleep, and in their sorrow they laughed at Him, because they were sure that she was dead. But Jesus took only Peter, James, and John and the mother and father of the child, and went into the room where she was. He took her by the hand and told her to rise up, and she was altogether better.

On the way to Jairus's house, lots of people were all around Him, going with Him to see what He would do. A woman had a bleeding disease. Her body had been bleeding for years, and she had gone to doctor after doctor and spent all her money, but didn't get any better. In fact she got worse. She trusted in the Lord so much that she thought, "If I can only touch the hem of His garment I will be made well." She did so, and right away she was made better. The bleeding stopped.

Now I want you to notice two special things about these stories. The first is that each time the person was made well by touching. The woman reached out her hand and touched the Lord's clothes, and she was better. The girl was dead. The Lord had to reach out His hand and touch her; and then she was better.

The second interesting thing is that the Lord did not want people to know about the more important miracle. He told the parents to keep quiet about it. But with the healing of the woman He did want people to know! He stopped, and turned around, and said, "**Who touched Me?**"

He didn't have to ask that question. He knew who touched Him. He wanted her to come out and admit it. Do you remember how Peter was surprised? He said, "**Lord the multitudes throng you and press you.**" There are people touching You all the time. But Jesus said that this was a special touch, because power went out of Him. Then the woman came forth. She was frightened, but she told everyone how she trusted the Lord, and just touched the hem of His garment, and she was better.

Isn't that interesting? Jesus didn't want people to know how He brought a little girl back from the dead, but He did want them to know how this woman trusted Him and was helped. There is a most special reason for this.

Let me tell you another story — and it's only a story — about a man of today. He started to work for someone who trusted him, and kept a lot of money at his work. This man was greedy and so he started to steal money from the owner of the business, who trusted him. That's certainly an evil thing to do, isn't it? Because the owner trusted him, no one knew that he was a thief. It was a secret which only he and the Lord knew.

Why did he steal? Because he wanted things, and he was impatient. He didn't want to wait until he had saved up money, so he stole money. He kept on telling himself it was all right, and that he deserved the money, and so on. In this way he was killing his love of the truth. His love of the truth was like that little girl who was dying.

Now no one knew he was a thief. But probably they could see that he was impatient. They could see that he would get cross if he couldn't get things when he wanted them, and he got angry if people got in his way. They wouldn't have said, "I think he's an evil man. I think he steals." But they would say, "He's rather impatient. I wish he wasn't in such a hurry to get things." His impatience was like the issue of blood that the woman had.

One day this man realized that his stealing was evil. Even though no one knew about it, the Lord knew and he knew that it was a sin. So he turned to the Lord, and he said he was sorry, and he asked the Lord to give him strength to fight against his stealing. He asked the Lord to come into his house and heal his love of the truth so he could fight against evil. The Lord loved him like He loves all people, so He did so. He came down into the streets of that man's mind, and walked in his mind, and made his love of truth better so that he could fight against stealing. It was a wonderful, happy secret between the Lord and that man. No one else knew about it. No one knew he had been a thief, and no one knew he had stopped stealing.

But when the Lord came into his mind He also healed his impatience. You see, because the Lord was now in his mind he found the strength to stop being impatient, and to stop wanting things in a hurry and getting angry because he couldn't have them. This is like the Lord healing the woman with the bleeding disease. And this was something that people around him could see. They remembered how impatient he used to be, and now they could see that he was becoming more gentle, and less upset about things. Now they could see how much nicer he was becoming.

That is the secret of these two miracles. When we ask the Lord into our minds to help us with our secret evils, He also helps us with lots of other things too. He helps us with our bad habits. We touch the hem of His clothing, and we are helped.

It is because the Lord helps us in all sorts of ways that He told this story of two miracles. One was secret, and was very, very important. A dead little girl came back to life. One was public — everyone knew of it — a woman was made better. So also the Lord can help a man who is a thief, and no one knows; but He also helps him with his impatience and his greediness, and people do know that, and they see that he is becoming a better person, because he trusts in the Lord.

Who Touched Me?

Mark 5

LEVEL 1 – A PLAY ABOUT A MIRACLE

TO THE PARENTS: *This time we can try something different to teach your little children about one of the Lord’s miracles. By acting out the story according to this simple drama, they will learn what happened when He raised the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus from the dead. Go over the story with them first, looking at the three pictures, so they will know the story. They can learn a simple version of Jesus’s words for each scene and will know enough to act it out several times.*

YOU WILL NEED:

- a white sheet to put over the girl
- a red ribbon or scarf to put around the Lord’s shoulders, to set him apart
- some sort of food, maybe bread or cookies.

CHARACTERS: Jesus, girl, mother, father

SET UP: Lie the child down on a couch or table. Tell her (him) to lie very still, with eyes closed, as if dead.
“Jesus” puts on the ribbon or scarf in the other room.

A Play About a Miracle

Enter “Jesus” and parents, weeping.

JESUS: *Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.*

MOTHER AND FATHER: *Laugh sadly and unbelieving.*

(Jesus, Mother and father go to girl)

JESUS (taking her hand): *Little girl, I say to you, Arise.*

(Girl gets up and walks)

JESUS (to parents): *Give her something to eat.*

THE END.

Switch roles and try again.

Let the child play Jesus’s part, helping him with the dialogue. (It is okay if it is not perfect.)

Let each child try all the parts.

Talk about how it felt to be the child; also the parents.

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LEVEL 2 – MIRACLES OF HEALING



The Lord did many miracles by healing people.
He touches you, and you touch Him when you read the

Find out the answer by doing the puzzle on page 2.

Color all the areas that add up to 10 (use different colors if you want).

What is left uncolored is the answer.

5
+5

9+1=
+3

4+6=
+7

1
+9

5
+5

7
+3

8
+2

9
+1

7+3=
+5

10+0=
+6

6+1=
+8

2+3=
+4

6+4=
+5

9+1=
+6

4
+6

2
+8

7
+0

1
+1

8
+1

5
+3

3+7=
+6

4
+6

5
+5

10+0=
+5

5+5=
+5

2+8=
+4

1
+9

10+0=
+4

2+2=
+3

7
+3

1
+9

5+1+4=
+9

7+2+1=
+4

2+8=
+5

5
+2

1
+6

4
+3

1
+9

6
+4

5
+5

1
+9

3
+1

10
+0

6
+4

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+3

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+5

4
+6

8
+2

3
+7

7
+3

2+8=
+2

9
+1

10
+0

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+9

7
+3

6+2=
+4

10
+0

3
+3

3+2=
+2

9+1=
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7+3=
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8+2=
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6+4=
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8+2=
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7+3=
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9+1=
+4

4+6=
+9

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+3

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+5

4
+6

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+10

9
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+8

3+7=
+8

5
+5

3+3=
+5

1
+1

5
+5

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LEVEL 3 – JAIRUS’S DAUGHTER

For this lesson, you have a choice about what kind of picture you want to work on:

a) You can color or paint the enclosed picture of the Raising of Jairus’ Daughter.

OR

b) You can make a picture that is really your own. Each of us has a special way of seeing, and when we read or hear a story and think about it deeply, it will form a picture in our mind that will be different from all others. When we try to put it down on paper, it may not always turn out exactly as we thought it would, but it’s always interesting to see what happens!



You have just heard the story of how the Lord healed Jairus’s daughter when everyone thought she was dead. Now, close your eyes and think of what it was like to see her lying there asleep. Would her hair be spread out on the pillow? Can you see part of the bed? Are there covers lying across the bed and hanging down? Are her arms lying at her side on top of the cover? Now the Lord comes into the room and stands close to the bed. Perhaps you can see just the upper part of Him as He leans over to hold her hand. Think how marvelous it would be to open your eyes and look into the Lord’s beautiful face! If you would like to, show some of the other people in the story. They would probably be smaller and in the background, because the Lord and the girl are large, important figures and might take up most of the space.

To begin, you will need the piece of plain of white paper. Now, with crayons, colored pencils or craypas, make this beautiful picture on the page. It might be a good idea to ask someone to lie down and pose for you, and also to stand behind the bed or table and bend over. This will help you see how it might look.

When you have finished your picture:

At the bottom of this page you will see the Hebrew words the Lord spoke to the girl. The sound they make is “**Talitha, cumi**”, and the meaning is “Little girl, Arise.” (*remember, Hebrew is read from right to left*). Color in the letters, cut off the strip and paste it at the bottom of your picture.



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LEVEL 4 – THE LORD TOUCHES US

(Read what Bishop George de Charms wrote in *The Life of the Lord* about the miracle in which a woman was healed by touching the Lord's garment)

Two Kinds of Touch

“And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that virtue had gone out of Him, turned Him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And His disciples said unto Him, Thou seest the multitude thronging Thee, and sayest Thou, Who touched me?”
Mark 5: 29-31

It is evident that there are two kinds of touch. Many people, crowding round the Lord, unthinkingly touched His garments. They may have had diseases, but they were not healed. This woman came and touched Him on purpose. She touched Him in order that He might make her well, believing in her heart that He would do so. Because of this she was healed immediately.

In the other world all communication or transfer of power is by means of touch. The same is true in this world, although sometimes it does not appear so. There must always be a medium through which power is transferred. In the case of a telephone, for instance, we see the wire along which the current travels, carrying our voice, perhaps to a great distance. In the case of the radio there is no wire, and we see nothing; but we know that there is an atmosphere called the ether that transmits the voice. But in both cases, if the voice is to be carried, there must be an instrument—a telephone or a radio sending and receiving set.

The Human Mind Receives the Lord's Love and Wisdom

The only instrument in the entire universe that can receive love and wisdom from the Lord and respond to them is the human mind. And our mind can act as a receiving instrument only if we turn it toward the Lord.

The Lord is Present in His Word

The Lord is present with men today just as truly as He was present while He lived on earth. He is present in His Word, for there we can see Him with our minds. The stories of the Word that tell us about Him are the garments in which He appears to us.



Touching the Lord's Garments

The stories of the Word are like the Lord's garments. Nearly everybody in the world knows about the Word. A great multitude of people have heard the stories of the

Word, and so have touched the garments of the Lord. But the Lord cannot heal them if they merely hear these stories and do not think about them.

We can “touch” the Lord by reading and listening to His Word. The Lord teaches us through these stories.

Being healed by the Lord

What should we do if we want the Lord to heal us?

- ❖ believe in the Lord
- ❖ know that His Truth alone can protect us from evil spirits and lead us toward heaven
- ❖ listen to the Word with love, praying to the Lord to teach us
- ❖ try to live in accord with His Will

These are they who touch His garments in the way this poor woman did. All who do this the Lord can heal and save.

Who touched my clothes?



“And He looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before Him, and told Him all the truth. And He said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.”

Mark 5: 32-34

The Lord knows all things

The woman did not wish to declare herself before the multitude. She had thought that even the Lord would not know who had touched Him.

But the Lord knows all things. He not only knew that the woman had touched Him—He knew that she was sick, and that she believed in Him. And He did not allow her to be healed in secret. Think of all those people around the Lord who may have been led to believe in Him by knowing what had happened. And because the story is recorded in the Word, countless generations of people will know about the Lord’s miracle, and think about how the Lord can heal them also.

Who Touched Me?



1. Did the woman believe the Lord could help her?

2. Did she want to ask for His help?

3. Can you think of a reason why she might not have wanted to disturb Him.

4. If you were sad, do you think the Lord could help you? _____

5. What can you do which is like touching His garments? _____

6. Which do you think matters more:
a) what part of the Word you read? or
b) what you are thinking when you read it?

Now, get your copy of the Word and read Mark 5:29-34 again to yourself slowly. While you are reading, picture yourself in your mind as a sick person in a crowd around Jesus. See yourself reach out and touch His garments.

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LEVEL 5 – SPIRIT POSSESSION

You have probably heard of various movies such as the one about the exorcist or the one about the “omen.” And you have probably heard of people who get interested in black magic or some kind of devil worship.

Some people as a game, and some people more seriously, have sought communication with spirits. If you put the French word for “yes” and the German word for “yes” together, you get the name of the kind of board that has sometimes been used in trying to ask spirits questions.

Look up two words in the dictionary and write what is written there. Look up “Ouija” and look up “Legion” in a dictionary. (*Choose the definitions that fit with our subject*).

Ouija _____

Legion _____

The Reality of the Spiritual World

The New Testament tells of the casting out of evil spirits. And thus while some people think belief in spirits is all idle superstition, the reader of the New Testament sees it differently. And in the New Church our view of the Lord’s Coming into the world, His REDEMPTION of the human race, is bound up with a realization of the reality of the spiritual world.

Casting out evil spirits

The first miracle recorded in the Gospel of Mark is the casting out of an evil spirits who had possessed a man. The man cried out when the Lord was preaching the truth in a synagogue. The Lord said:

“Be quiet, and come out of him!”

(Mark 1: 25)

People were amazed.

“He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”

Spirit possession was a familiar thing at that time, and this shows us what the state of the world was when the Lord came to redeem us.



The Prince of Peace

The Lord came as the Prince of Peace, and He could only give men peace by casting out the prince of non-peace, so to speak. As the culmination of His ministry came, He said,

“Now is the judgment of this world. Now shall the prince of this world be cast out” (*John 12: 31*).

After the Lord had cast the demon out of the man, he is pictured a man sitting calmly, dressed in his clothes “and in his right mind” (verse 15). This feeling of peace is described beautifully in *True Christian Religion*:

“After redemption the Lord bestowed peace upon those who believe on Him, for He said, PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU, MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU . . . Likewise He gives to man after temptation a sense of peace, gladness of mind and comfort. From all this it is clear that the Lord is the Redeemer forever” (*TCR 599*).

My name is Legion

That man who sat peacefully in his right mind had previously been a raging wild man, running naked among the tombs. In his rage he would break chains and cut himself with stones. The man had no freedom, possessed as he was. The spirits who had taken possession of him had a preference for graveyards and desolate places.

What a dramatic moment it was in the history of this planet when the Lord asked for the name. In the physical world there was the Lord standing before this violent wild man. The man falls on the ground in terror and screams the plea not to be tormented (verse 7).



And then the question: What is your name?

“My name is Legion, for we are many.”

Although physically only two men stood there, the forces of many evil spirits are involved.

The Power of the Lord’s Name

And there is something strange. The name Jesus was used, which is in one sense a surprising thing. The Writings tell us that evil spirits dare not use that name. The name means Savior, the One who can save man from all forces of hell. It would seem here that the name was used in absolute terror by these evil spirits who pleaded not to be tormented.

“No Satan can bear to hear Jesus named.”

If they do, they “run about and blaspheme; and then if light from heaven flows in, they throw themselves headlong” (*TCR 380: 3*).

The Lord's name has a remarkable power. He gave His disciples power to cast out evil spirits, and when they did do this, they did it in the Lord's name. (*Acts 19: 13; Luke 9: 49*). With joy they reported to the Lord:

“Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

(Luke 10: 17)



Evil Spirits in New Testament Times

The spirits who possessed people harmed them in various ways. In one case, the evil spirits caused dumbness (*Matt. 9:23*); in another deafness and dumbness (*Mark 9:25*); in another, blindness and dumbness (*Matthew 12:12*). And in another, In one case a spirit had paralyzed a woman for eighteen years (*Luke 13: 16*).

There was a dramatic case of a spirit who made a boy fall down if he was near a fire or near water in which he might drown. In this case, the disciples couldn't do anything to help. Only the Lord Himself could, and the Lord commanded,

“I command you, come out of him, and enter him no more!”

(Mark 9: 25)

Evil Spirits at This Day

What can we say about evil spirits at the present day, since the Lord has done His work of redemption?

There are still evil spirits, but they do not seize power over us physically. People who deliberately try to come under them are in more danger than they realize and the rule should be ***never surrender your freedom, even in so-called fun.***

At another level, we do have evil spirits with us whenever we are in what is definitely wrong, when we are unmerciful and cruel or inclined to lie or steal. And the story of our life is how the Lord delivers us from these forces, and brings us to **“sit in peace under his own fig tree”** (*TCR 117*) The Lord gives us **“peace, gladness of mind, and comfort”** (*TCR 599*).