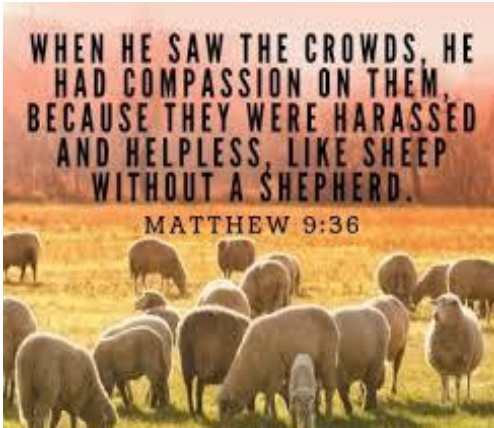


Guided by a cloud 27 (Exodus 13:21-22)

This week I have been thinking a lot about finally having my knee replacement operation next week. Some of those thoughts have been about my healing afterwards and how long it will be before I can get out on my bike again! The Gospels have many accounts of Jesus healing people. Sometimes this is by command such as in Matthew 8:5-13 when the centurion says to, 'just say the word' and his servant will be healed. However, many of the healings Jesus performed involved him actually touching people, laying on his hands.



Worship time

[Jesus I have never seen](#)

[I cast my mind to Calvary](#)

[O lord hear my prayer](#)

Luke 5:12-13 While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

The law required a leper to cry out, "Unclean, unclean" everywhere he went. It was a way of protecting others from the disease. This man was separated from family and friends. He was destitute and must have been incredibly lonely. For years people would have gone out of their way to avoid him. Yet Jesus doesn't cross the road, he moves closer. In the face of Jesus the man doesn't see loathing, he sees concern. He doesn't see fear, he sees sympathy. He doesn't see rejection, he sees love.

Then Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. According to Jewish law, if a person touched someone who was unclean, they became unclean also. Jesus could have healed the man without touching him, but Jesus wasn't scared of his sores. The touch was telling the man, I am here with you. I understand. I love you. Jesus knows that this leper needs love just as much as he needs healing.

In all of the accounts of Jesus healing people He had compassion (Matthew 9:36). Whenever people were around him, Jesus understood what their real needs were and sought to address them. For some, physical healing was necessary, for others the root issue was spiritual. Jesus took the time to actually notice that people were hurting and His compassion drove Him to help them. Jesus came to earth to minister to individuals because he deeply cares about us. He cares about what you are going through today.

As we come to take communion this morning Jesus is with us. We may not be able to lay hands on each other but we can pray for one another and we can receive Jesus' touch through the taking of communion.

Paul says in **Corinthians 11:23- 26** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7