

# Jesus' Transforming Touch

New Life Lessons • April 29-30, 2017 • Pastor Dave Vasquez

## DAY ONE. Receiving spiritual sight

Read **Matthew 9:27-29**; **John 12:40**; **Ephesians 4:18**; **Acts 26:17-18**

(Find a place that you can do this without hurting yourself.) Close your eyes and try to find your way around. Take note of how your abilities are impaired by being unable to see. Sit down and write down some of your observations. How is spiritual blindness like physical blindness? How has your perception of the world, circumstances, and relationships changed since you experienced the sight-giving touch of Jesus? How does your perception differ from those around you who do not yet know Jesus? How does this awareness affect your compassion toward them?

**Pray.** Ask God to help you to see the spiritual realities around you more clearly. Ask God to give you more compassion for those you know who are still “blind.”

## DAY TWO. Receiving spiritual cleansing

Read **Matthew 8:1-2**; **James 1:14-15**; **Ephesians 4:18-19**

Choose a day and try to imagine yourself as a leper that day. Begin the day by looking in the mirror. Imagine yourself with decaying features and limbs. Your ability to feel pain is severely dulled. As you proceed through the day, imagine yourself cut off from all of the relationships you experience and without touch. What is it like? The next day, reflect on your experience. Think about a time that a sin took hold in your life. How did it start, spread? What were the effects on your relationships? What was it like when you experienced the touch of Jesus and that sin and its effects were removed?

**Pray.** Thank Jesus for the way his touch has helped to overcome sin and its effects in your life. Ask for his touch to overcome sins that may still affect you. Pray for those around you who are beset by sin. Ask for Jesus to touch and cleanse them.

## His Unexpected Touch

Unexpected: Following Jesus #2

### 1. His touch brings sight: The blind man

**Matthew 9:27-29** (NIV) <sup>27</sup> As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” <sup>28</sup> When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they replied. <sup>29</sup> Then he **touched** their eyes and said, “According to your faith will it be done to you”; <sup>30</sup> and their sight was restored.

**Matthew 6:22-23** (NIV) <sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

*Physical blindness is a picture of spiritual blindness*

**John 9:5-7** (NIV) <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

**John 8:12** (NIV) <sup>12</sup> When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

*The blind grope and stumble along the path of life*

**Isaiah 59:9-10** (NIV) <sup>9</sup> So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. <sup>10</sup> Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like men without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.

*The blind fail to perceive reality accurately*

**John 12:40** (NIV) <sup>40</sup> “He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts...”

*The blind cannot enjoy life in the fullest sense*

**Ephesians 4:18** (NIV) <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.”  
2Corinthians 4:3-4

*Darkness to light = Satan to God*

**Acts 26:17-18** (NIV) <sup>17</sup> “I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

*The spiritually blind are unaware of their condition*

**Revelation 3:17-18** (NIV) <sup>17</sup> You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

## 2. His touch brings cleansing: The Leper

**Matthew 8:1-3** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup> A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus reached out his hand and **touched** the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.

*Lepers were separated from people*

**Leviticus 13:44-46** (NIV) <sup>44</sup> ...the man is diseased and is unclean. The priest shall pronounce him unclean because of the sore on his head. <sup>45</sup> “The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out,

‘Unclean! Unclean!’ <sup>46</sup> As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp.  
Numbers 5:2-3

*Leprosy was often a judgment for sin*

**Numbers 12:9-11** (NIV) <sup>9</sup> The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them. <sup>10</sup> When the cloud lifted from above the Tent, there stood Miriam—leprous, like snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had leprosy; <sup>11</sup> and he said to Moses, “Please, my lord, do not hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed.”

*Like leprosy, sin begins small*

**Leviticus 13:1-2** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, <sup>2</sup> “When anyone has a swelling or a rash or a bright spot on his skin that may become an infectious skin disease, he must be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons who is a priest.”

*Like leprosy, sin spreads slowly*

**James 1:14-15** (NIV) <sup>14</sup> ...but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

*Like leprosy, sin dulls the senses*

**Ephesians 4:18-19** (NIV) <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding... <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

**Matthew 8:4** (NIV) <sup>4</sup> “See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and present the offering that Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.”  
Leviticus 14:1-7

**Romans 6:12-13** (NIV) <sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.