

LESSON 5

THE TOUCH OF JESUS

MARK 5:1–43



1 When have you felt rejected by others?

2 What groups of people are considered rejects by our society?



Read Mark 5:1–43 and the following notes:

☐ 5:11 ☐ 5:19, 20 ☐ 5:25–34 ☐ 5:39, 40 ☐ 5:41, 42

3 Why would most people in Jesus' time want to avoid a woman who was hemorrhaging (5:25)?

4 In this chapter what kinds of social barriers do you see Jesus breaking through?

Jesus surprised the people of his day by reaching out to social outcasts. We see dramatic examples of this in chapter 5. People with running sores and those who had been in recent contact with a dead body were considered unclean and were to be avoided. Religious people today are often surprised to learn about the kinds of people they should reach out and touch. Sometimes we don't want to go near such people. Sometimes we don't know what to do or are unintentionally condescending when we try to help. Jesus shows us how to live lives motivated by compassion. The example Jesus set eliminates our excuses for allowing any barrier to separate us from those in need. No person is beyond Christ's loving touch.



5 Look at the chart entitled "The Touch of Jesus." Then draw some contemporary parallels between the outcasts of Jesus' day and the outcasts of our day as illustrated below:

Then	Now
A despised tax collector	An IRS agent
An outcast with leprosy	A person with AIDS

6 In what ways are you like any of the groups of people on this list?



7 Which kinds of people on this list are fairly easy and natural for you to reach out to?

8 Which kinds of people do you find difficult to reach out to?

9 With which of these groups of rejected people do you have some kind of contact?

10 What are some creative ways that you can show care and concern for them?

11 Find a way soon to reach out to someone you know who feels rejected and perhaps might even be an outcast in society. How could you show this person God's love?



A Why were the demons so afraid of Jesus? Who did the demons say Jesus was? Why is this significant?

B Why were the people of this region afraid of Jesus after he had healed this man?

C Why was Jesus so concerned that the woman know it was her faith that had healed her?

D Why would Jesus tell the man he healed to spread the news and yet tell the parents not to tell anyone that he had brought their daughter back to life?

E Does God still heal people today? How would you like him to heal you?

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