

## Reach Out And Touch Someone

Ponder: The benefits of a touch

Scripture: “So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him” (Matthew 20:34, NKJV).

Before the advent of cell phones, “Ma Bell” ran an advertisement promoting long-distance calling. I can still hear the jingle in my mind: “Reach out and touch someone!” The phone company meant that metaphorically; let’s borrow their jingle and use it literally.

Jesus touched people – the blind, deaf mutes, sick people, even lepers! And people craved His touch. Those in need of healing were not the only ones who wanted and needed Jesus to touch them. Loving parents brought their little ones to Jesus so he could touch them (Mark 10:13). He calmed His frightened disciples with a touch (Matthew 17:17).

Can you and I instantaneously heal the sick by touching them as Jesus did? Of course not! But we can still help people with a touch. God did not create human beings to be isolated. Tiny babies thrive when they are touched; and the need continues throughout our lives. A touch can communicate love, warmth, caring, strength, confidence, power, assurance – you can continue the list indefinitely!

For reasons of their own, some people do not want to be touched, especially by someone they don’t know. We must understand and respect that. And especially in today’s environment, we must be careful not to touch inappropriately – even well-intentioned, innocent touches may be misunderstood.

But let us not over-react so that we stop touching people entirely! Sick people need our visits and often benefit from being touched (gently holding their hand during prayer, for example). For their protection and yours, use disinfectant lotion before and after the visit.

Even outside of the sickroom, people need to be touched. Spouses need touched; children need touched; everybody needs touched. It’s part of being human. Use due discretion, but definitely “reach out and touch someone”!

Song: “Oh To Be Like Thee”

Prayer: Kind Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We thank You for His wonderful example as he lovingly and compassionately touched people. Please help us to be a blessing in the lives of other people by encouraging them with a touch. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Joe Slater (Justin, TX)

jaslater1954@gmail.com