

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

Touch is one of the five senses that have been given to men and is the most intimate of all of the senses, since it involves an action. A man can see, hear, taste, or smell something without direct involvement. Yet touch supposes that an activity takes place. Some may say that taste would fall into that category, but only that "taste" which actually "touches" the object can be said to be so.

The scriptures tell us of many times when the LORD "touched" men. The first instance that is recorded for us is when Jacob *wrestled a man*) As they wrestled the LORD put forth HIS hand and *"touched the hollow of his thigh."* The LORD could have easily destroyed Jacob yet we learn the mercy of GOD in HIS dealings with HIS children. HE made Jacob aware of HIS superior power and yet treated Jacob in the tender fashion described for us by the prophet Isaiah, *"A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench"* HE blessed Jacob there as HE revealed HIMSELF causing Jacob to rejoice in worship.

Then we read of the prophet Elijah who had grown so weary of life and full of despair as he fled from the face of Jezebel. *"And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat."* Though the instrumentality of HIS touch was through an "angel", the effect was nonetheless ordained by HIM and carried with it the same power and effect. HE ministered to the weary prophet and met his every need. Even "touching" him a second time as HE prepared Elijah for his journey to mount Horeb (the mount of GOD). There HE revealed to him that he was not alone, but that the LORD had reserved 7,000 men who had not bowed unto Baal and were faithful followers of the MOST HIGH GOD.

Job said, *"Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me."* Though Satan was the instrument which the LORD used to bring trouble upon Job, Job gave all glory to the LORD and never once mentioned Satan. He had an understanding in some measure of the LORD's declaration in Isaiah, *"I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things."*

Jeremiah said the LORD allayed his fears of going forth with the LORD's message when the LORD *"touched him"*. *"Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."* Every one who thinks himself a "preacher" would do well to remember this.

Daniel mentions being *"touched"* five times as the LORD revealed unto him secrets that none other received, as he tells us, *"there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me."* Indeed the LORD alone reveals the secrets hid from the foundation of the world. This is the gospel of the glory of the blessed GOD, which exalts the grace and purpose of GOD as JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified is preached.

The gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all give us examples and instances when the LORD touched the needy during HIS sojourn upon the earth. The LORD touched a leper and he was made whole; Who but the gracious SAVIOR would dare to touch the infected man without regard to HIS own wellbeing. *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* HE did the same with Peter's mother who lay sick of a fever. Two blind men sought HIS mercy, *"Then touched he their eyes" and they were made to see.* Peter, James, and John were terrified upon the Mount of Trans-figuration, *"And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid."* HE comforted the widow of Nain as she was in the process of burying her son, *"And he came and touched the bier"* He that was dead, was brought back to life by HIM who is the LIFE.

Yet one of grandest displays of HIS "touch" was when the woman with the issue of blood touched the hem of HIS garment and HE immediately knew it) Do we not see HIM *"touched with the feelings of our infirmities"* as HE immediately stopped and inquired *"Who touched me"*

The LORD *"knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."*

"Thy free grace alone," #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net ,**