

Build Up Community with a Loving Touch

July 23-24, 2016

Introduction: "Yug me"

Our High-Touch God

- John 1:1, 14 ***¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.***

The "Incarnation" – God's ultimate high-touch
(My Notes)

- Leviticus 16:20-22 ***²¹When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. ²¹He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. ²²The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.***

The Touch of Healing

- Mark 1:40b, 41b-42 ...***^{40b}If you are willing, you can make me clean.***
- Mark 1: 41b-42 ...***^{41b}He [Jesus] reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.***

The Touch of Reassurance

- Matthew 17:6-7 ***6When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.”***

(My Notes)

The Touch of Reconciliation

- Luke 22:49-51 ***49When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” 50And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. 51But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.***

(My Notes)

Jesus’ reconciling touch that brings forgiveness:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 ***17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.***

Conclusion: What are your hands for?

List two ways that, in this coming week, you will use the touch of your hands to heal, reassure or reconcile.

1 _____

2 _____

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.



Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

Get each day's GPS downloaded to your computer/phone/etc. by going to this link clcm-gps.com or subscribing through **Feedly.com** (or other RSS Reader) to receive daily updates.

Monday: Read *John 1:14, 20:25-28; Matthew 17:6-7*. What does it mean to you that God became human and walked among us, lived life with us, talked with us, and touched us?

Tuesday: Read *Mark 1:40-42, Luke 22:47-51*. In each case, which of the love languages did Jesus use to communicate God's love to the man he healed? Why did Jesus touch the man with leprosy first, before speaking? Does "touch" play a significant role in your life? If yes, how?

Wednesday: Read *Luke 18:15-17*. How did Jesus communicate God's love to the children and to their parents? When Jesus blessed the children, it involved touching them. Discuss the statement, "To touch in love is to bless. To refuse to touch is to dehumanize."

Thursday: Read *Philippians 2:3-4*. How does this passage of Scripture guide what you should and should not use your hands for? How can hands be used selfishly? Describe a time when you used your hands to bless another person.

Friday: Read *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*. In what way does God engage us through touch in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper? What are your habits to prepare for, and receive, this Sacrament?

Saturday: Read *Matthew 28:18-19*, *1 Peter 3:20-22*. These two passages of Holy Scripture mention baptism. Baptism involved the spoken Word of God, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" joined to ordinary water. Once again, God chooses to bless us and involve the sense of touch. How does *1 Peter* help us understand one of the reasons why God chose water?