

## Second touch

Have you ever had a time in your life where God had given you a vision for something, but you were unsure how to get there? Maybe right now you are at a transition in your life, and until now you have had clear direction, but now your vision is unfocused and unclear.

Well I trust today you shall be encouraged, there was a man in the Bible, who Jesus gave vision, but the vision was unclear, but the bible says Jesus gave him a second touch. An that is what I want to share with you today. The Bible says that when Jesus gave him this second touch, his vision became clear.

Mark 8v22-26

*The Healing of a Blind Man at Bethsaida*

*22They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. 23He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"*

*24He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." (In other words he had vision, but it was not clear)*

*25Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village*

He saw everything clear! I want to share with you something today from this wonderful bible story, and how Jesus was brought a blind man who had no vision.

Helen Adams Keller (June 27,1880–June 1,1968) was an American author, activist and lecturer. She was the first deaf/blind person to graduate from college. She was once asked is there anything which is worst than being blind, she wisely answered “The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

There are a lot of people who have lost their vision. There are a lot of people who don't know where they are going. Maybe you have lost your job, maybe your marriage has broken up, maybe you didn't meet your grades and right now you are in the transition period of your life. Maybe you have just lost a loved one, a family member and are struggling why? Why were they taken and you left behind? There are so many thing which can happen to us in life to shake our confidence. There are

so many things which happen, that make us question our belief, even in ourself, to such a degree that we just seem to fumble through life, listening to the appraisal of the enemy telling us: Your a failure, you will also be a failure, you shall never achieve anything! Your good days are behind you! Nothing good is going to happen any more! You have blown your chance! You have lost your vision.

But they brought this man to Jesus who was blind, and Jesus spat in his eyes. What a way to be healed huh? You think Jesus could have thought of a nice way, to others he said 'stand up, take your mat and walk', some he touched, some he visited, and other he healed from afar. This shows us two things: firstly Jesus is free, he doesn't simply fit into our box, if he healed just one way, we would have made a doctoring out of it and built a church. 'the church of pick up your mat' or 'the church of spit in the eyes' but he uses any number of ways of bringing his purposes.

Secondly, he doesn't always bring us something good, through something nice. Nobody wants spit in their eyes, it is not nice. But it brought God's purpose and healing.

But see what happens in this story: They brought the man to Jesus. Jesus spat in the mud, then rubbed it into his eyes. The man had been touched by Jesus – not only had he been touched, but he could also see. He could see what he could not see! He had vision!

He had Vision, the bible says the man could see, but he saw people like trees. 'I've been touched, I can see, but I can't see clearly. My vision is foggy, my vision is not certain and is a little bit misty. And all of a sudden Jesus did something, which we don't read anywhere else in scripture: he touched him a second time. There is a second touch!

And when he touched him the second time, the bible says he looked up and saw EVERYTHING CLEARLY!

What I want speak to you about is this second touch, that can make what is foggy and unfocused – clear. Because God has a plan and purpose for your life, but if your not careful you will settle for a touch that gives you vision, but you can't really see what you are suppose to do. Why am I here? What is God's purpose for my family / for my life? What does he want me to do? You have a vision but it is unclear, it is unfocused, your are not sure where you are going. You are uncertain about where you should be. You don't know if your in the right place / right Job / right course??? Your uncertain what God's plan is for this season of your life?

There is something called the 'Second Touch'. But we must be hungry for it! It is when we say 'Lord, I praise you for the first touch! I thank you for the first touch! I praise you for the day you saved me, for the day you gave me life. BUT, now that I am serving you, I need you to clear up my vision, I need your touch a second time! Clear up my vision.

We live in a world today which likes to be entertained but not changed! We need to understand that this man was touched and given sight, he could have happily said nothing, and spent the rest of his life with unclear vision (but vision non-the-less). If that had been a lot of Christians after God had touched them for the first time, they would have said 'I have been touched, I am satisfied, and I will spend the rest of my life with unclear vision.

However he had hunger for more, and he got the second touch! The second touch made him whole! He could see, what he could not see. Go where he could not go. He did things which he never could have done, without the blessing of the second touch.

Do you want to come to church and be entertained or do you want to be changed. Do you want God to touch you and change you?

Many times we have problems in our life, and we run to God to find answers, and he touches us, but we don't give him chance to change us. We keep getting into the same problem, keeping running back to be touched, but we are not being changed.

I want to tell you a touch is not enough. We need the power of God to come upon us and change us! Change our nature, change our mindsets, change our caricature, change our spirits. The Bible says that this man was not happy with just the touch, but he wanted to change!

The Devil doesn't want you to realise your full potential. Some of you have come so far and now the enemy has put you in a comfortable place, and says 'I want you to be happy, just where you are! Don't believe God for more. Don't ask for more. Don't hunger and thirst for more. Just be content with your comfort! Be happy with the touch you had.

But this man said 'NO' the touch is not enough, I want a change!

Now there are some lessons about how change comes about in our lives, and there is almost always, divine misery before there is divine chance. When we get in a place where we are miserable, where

our tolerance for a situation is about all that we can handle.

There are maybe some of you who are in this place, a place of divine misery. Why doesn't my situation get any better? Why doesn't my marriage improve? Why doesn't my church grow? God has you right where he want you. He is allowing divine misery, just before he is going to bring divine change.

You see we love it when God touches us! We **love it** when we get into a service where we can feel his presence and nearness. But we **squeal** when God changes us. We can sit here in church looking all holy, but I believe God is saying ' I wish I could find myself a church where they would do a little more then just sing and clap. I want some people, who are serious about being my people! People who don't just want a touch, but want to be changed. I want to change everything about their lives.

There comes a time when God says 'I have touched that alcohol problem. I have touch that debt problem. I have touched that negative image problem. I have touched it over and over, but you keep bringing it back into your life. Now get it out of your life. I give you authority over it. Today is not about a touch but a change.

Do you believe God can change things?

You don't need to keeping fighting over you marriage. Keep coming back for a new solution. You can lay it at God's alter. He will change it, he can change the water into wine. He can change the bitterness into love. He can change the forgiveness into a marriage that is better then you could ever have believed!

We got to want more than a touch! We got to want a change!!

The bible says that the wise men, went to Herod's palace because they wanted to find the messiah. They came half way around the worlds to find the messiah who was under the star. Then they asked the astrologers in Herod's palace, 'Where is he?'. And they answer 'we have it in prophesy that he will be born in a village 8 miles from here called Bethlehem. Those wise men went and had an encounter with Jesus which changed their lives, they came half way around the world. Yet we don't read anything about Herod's astrologers, they were happy, just contented in the palace, they couldn't be bothered to travel 8 miles to meet the living Lord. In other words, they were satisfied to read about him, to study about him, to go into the temple and hear about him, they were content to have

a touch, but not a change.

It is such a shame that there are a lot of people who are content to come to church, and get a touch. And they live from touch, to touch, to touch. But God wishes that just one time, we will allow him to touch us, until he changes us.

Jacob got a hold of God, that angel he was wrestling with, and the bible says that the angel touch him on his hip. When he touched him on his hip, the angel said, now let me go, for the dawning of a new day is upon us.

If that had been most of us, we would have said 'I got my touch', 'I got my touch' 'God has really done something for me. But if we are going to reach our full potential in the kingdom we can't just live with a touch.

If I was going to ask you 'are you saved?', maybe you would answer 'yeah, God touched me when I was 7) and I find that wonderful and amazing, and mean no disrespect BUT today your 27, 37, 47, 57, 67, 77, 87, you can't live off one touch. You need a daily relationship with him.

What I love about Jacob is that he said 'I WILL NOT LET YOU GO, UNTIL YOU BLESS ME!' The angel stood back and said, alright, you have just moved from a touch to a change, no longer will you be called Jacob, but you shall be called Israel, for you are a prince with God.

God changed a man's name, because he got a second touch. God changed his walk, he nature, his future because he said, I am not content with just being touched! He could have lived the rest of his life with this, and bragged about how an angel touched him, but he pressed on until he got his change.

In Mark 5, there was a women with an issue of blood, and she reached out and touched Jesus's garment and Jesus asked 'who touched me?' His disciples answers, there are a thousand here, all are touching you, but Jesus said 'no'. This was a different touch, this was a touch of change, this was from someone who was desperate, someone who was hungry, this was not someone who came to church as usual this morning, but someone who was looking for a change. The change came out of Jesus and she was made whole. You can be changed today. Jacob was changed because he held on.

It is a sad fact that we can invite a consumer Christianity, a religion which blesses us, without

changed our priorities. Bless me, but don't mess me. Touch me but don't change me. Let me look good in church, but also look good in the world the rest of the week.

Really Christianity is not just about getting thrilled on Sunday, but is about getting to the point where God owns us. Our friendship, our relationships, our studies, our homes, because everything we have belongs to him, because we have been changed into his image, this is our goal.

At some point we need to press in and say God – please change me! I am not the husband / the wife I am suppose to be, I am not the parent / the child I am suppose to be, I am not the student / teacher, employer / employee which I am suppose to be. Change me! Change me until the change is clear to everyone who knows me.

Isaiah 6 – Isaiah got a touch with a coal of a fire from heaven. And when he got touched, it broke him to the point where he said 'It's not my life any more' It says that the year the king died, he saw heaven opened up. The King was his king, who he worked for, who he looked to for money, but sometime, our kings need to pass off the throne, so we can see God high and lifted up in his throne. The Angels took the coal of the fire and put it on his lips, and he said 'here am I, send me' because he wasn't only touched, he was changed.

Here is your choice – Everything for Jesus or nothing! You either take up your cross and follow him and die to your flesh, to the world and the devil, or you achieve everything you want in life, the car, the wife, the house, the best job, the large bank account, and what you will find, is your sitting in this house and thinking 'why am I not happy?' You will look at your achievement and think 'why is it not enough?

I shall tell you why, because all these things are temporal and shall pass away but when God touches us with that second touch, he can change us, and when he changes us, we shall never be the same! Do you believe it? Are you willing to pursue it?