

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG
METHODIST CHURCH



The TOUCH

sunday 28th feb 2021

ps swee ming

Mark 8:22-26



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METHODIST CHURCH



Kangaroo Care



Mark 8:22-26

22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.

23 He 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?"

24 He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

25 Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

26 Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village."



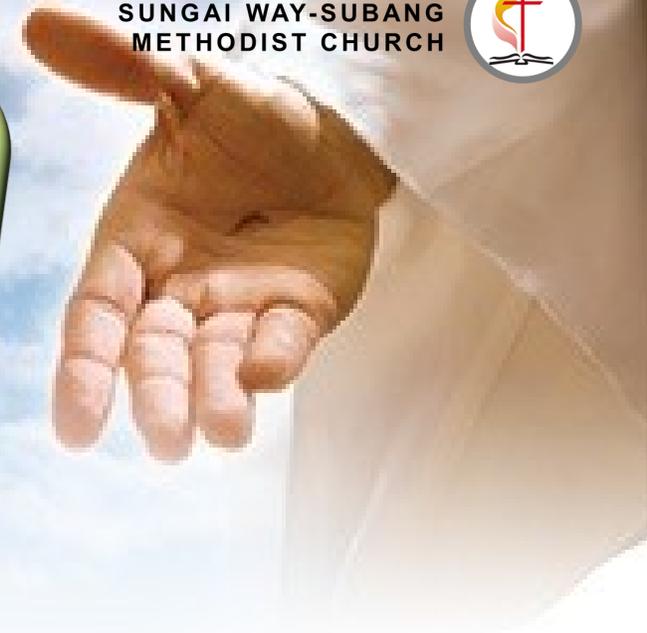
*The
Touch*

The Touch

v22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.



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- Where : Bethsaida**
What : some people brought
Who : a blind man
Why : begged Jesus to touch him.



Mark is the “Speedy / Immediate Gospel”

Everything moves very fast ...

42 x – immediately, straightaway, soon after ..

YET only Mark records this miracle ...

Unique to this miracle ...

- **Leading the blind man out of the town ...**
- **Asking the man ...**
- **‘Two-stage’ healing ...**

The Touch

v22a They came to Bethsaida, and some people...

**Q: Who are this “SOME PEOPLE...” ?
Maybe they had...**

- **heard Jesus before**
- **seen the miracles ...**
- **even personally experienced the Touch of Jesus ...**

**And because they had
they now brought their ...
‘family member’ / ‘friend’
to Jesus**

to be ‘TOUCHED’

Be Thankful for such “some people’

- ↪ **Mk 7:31 - deaf ‘mute’**
- ↪ **Mk 2:4 - paralytic**





Q: What about you and me ?

We who have ...

- **heard Jesus through His Word....**
- **seen His works and miracles ...**
- **even personally experienced His Touch ...**

“Some People” invited us

Who then can we be “some people” to ?

can we bring to Jesus ?

do we know need ...

↪ **to hear about Jesus ?**

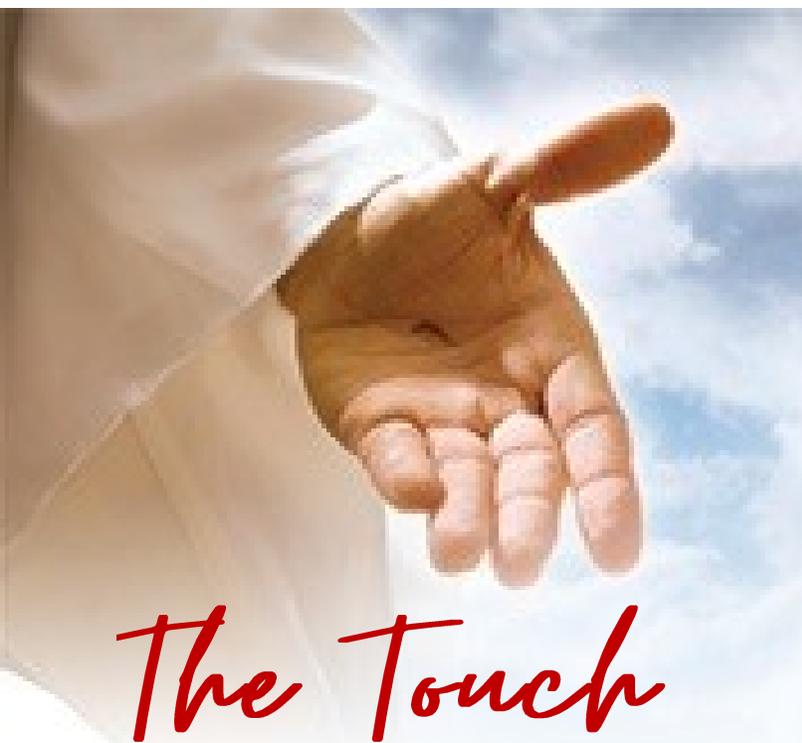
↪ **to see His Works ?**

↪ **to experience a Touch from Jesus ?**

1. WHO NEEDS to be Touched

The Touch

*v22a They came
to Bethsaida,
and some
people...*



Blindness ...

- a fairly common condition then ...
- multifactorial causes ...
- no effective treatment

Blind man ... Cause ?

Did he know

- what was happening ?
- where they were taking him?
- why they were taking him ?
- who was Jesus ?

Did he have faith in Jesus to heal him ?

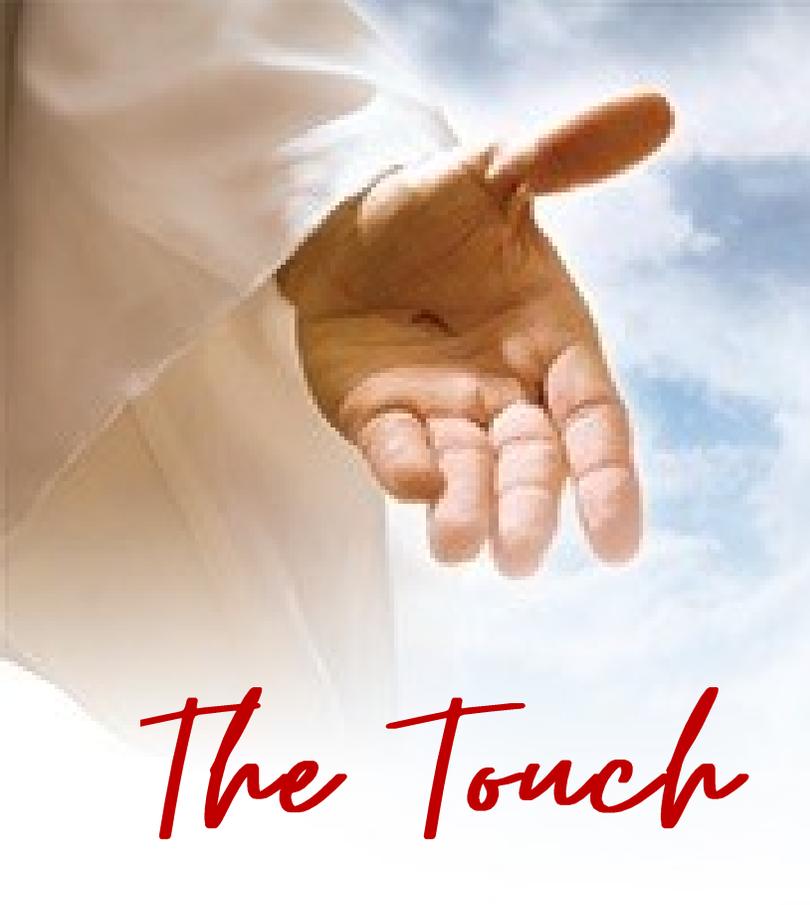
↪ Most probably not ...

↪ But the 'friends' obviously had ...

The Touch

v22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.





The Touch

v23a He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village...

2. WHO WANTS to be TOUCHED.

The blind man's friends wanted him to be touched ...

The blind man??

Jesus took him by his hand and led him

↪ He's blind and had to be led

↪ Who followed ??

↪ "Friends" ?

↪ "Disciples" ?

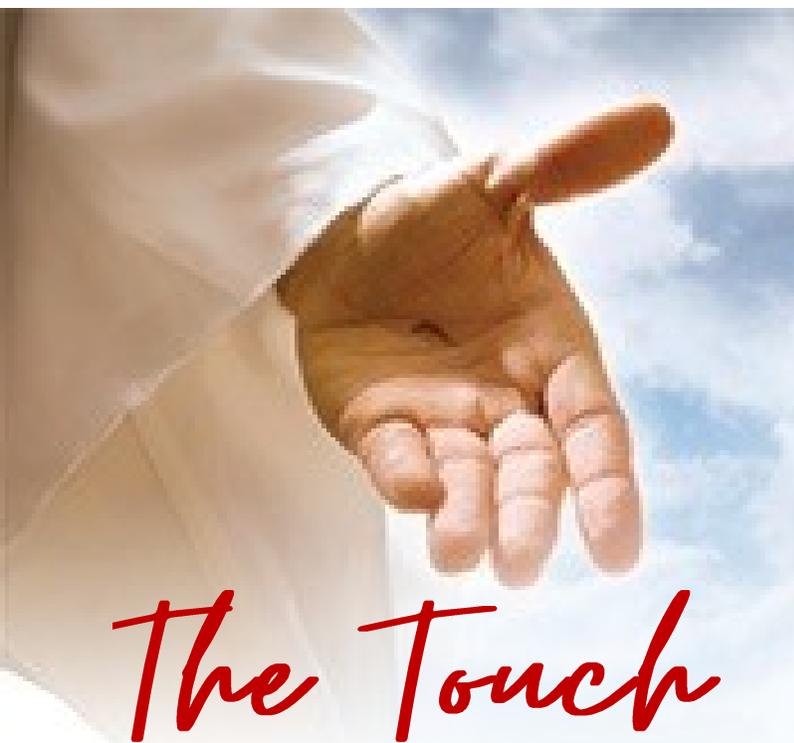
➤ Did Jesus speak to him

➤ Did Jesus explain to him ...

Outside Bethsaida

Q: WHY ?





The Touch

v22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.

Q: WHY outside Bethsaida ?

↪ **Avoid Distraction**

↪ **Avoid Publicity**

↪ **?? Matt 11:21-22**

Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.

Mark 6:5 @ Nazareth ...

?? Spiritual atmosphere of Bethsaida ...

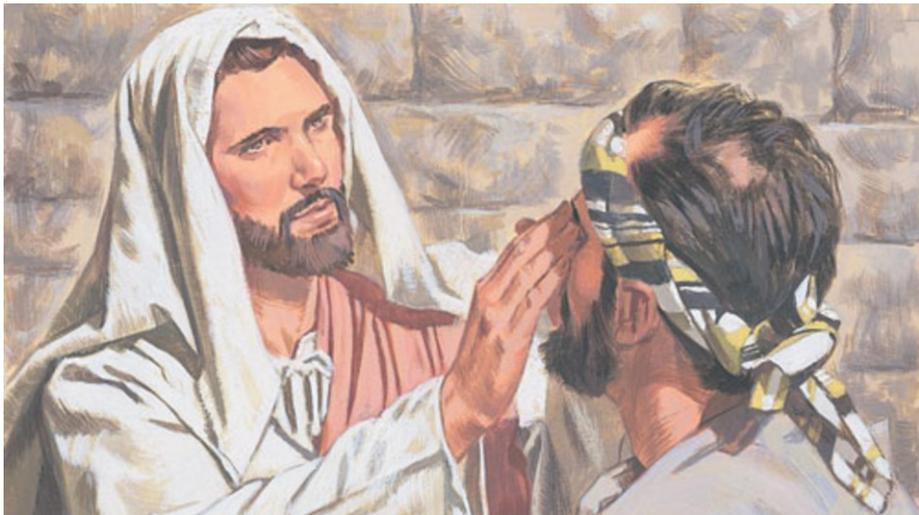
➤ **V26 “Don’t go into the village”**





The Touch

*23b When he had spit
on the man's eyes...*



Spit on the man's eyes ...

Why ??

Not the first time though ...

➤ **Mk 7:33 - deaf 'mute'...**

➤ **Jn 9:6 – man born blind ...**

**NB: Saliva suppose to have curative
properties at that time ...**

More so if one is fasting ...

Jesus can heal

↪ **with a word ...**

↪ **at a distance ...**

↪ **with a simple touch ...**

Again “WHY ?”

➤ **we do not know....**



The Touch

In the Gospels-

Jesus healed many 'blind' people ...

Individual accounts of 7 people...

All different ways of healing ...

- **With a Word**
- **Touched**
- **With Spit**
- **Spit with mud**

Why ?

**Just imagine if Jesus used only
one mode of healing ...**

Eg By spitting

What will happen ?





After spitting ...

↪ **Jesus TOUCHED him ...**

↪ **asking 'Do you see anything?'**

WHAT !

This is most unusual

Jesus normally just ...

➤ **spoke the word ...**

➤ **gave a command**

and it happened

Jesus normally do not ask

The man's reply ...

↪ **Can see ...**

↪ **But not clear ... 'people walking around like trees...'**



The Touch

23b When He had spit on the man's eyes and put His hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

24 He looked up and said, "I see people walking; they look like trees around."



Jesus **TOUCHED** the man again ...
His sight was restored ...
'saw everything clearly'...
healed fully from his blindness ...

The Touch

²⁵ Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

**3. WHO NEEDS to be
TOUCHED AGAIN...**



The Touch

²⁵ Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Q: Why the 2-stage healing ?

Answer in the negative –

It's not because

- **Jesus was tired ...**
- **the man's blindness was particularly hard**
- **Jesus tried and failed the 1st time ...**

Basic Premise :

- **Jesus never make any mistake ...**
- **Everything he does has a reason & a purpose...**

Q: What possible lesson / reason / purpose is there ???





The Touch

²⁵ Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Q: Why the 2-stage healing ?

Q: What lesson / reason / purpose is there ???

Bible is silent

- **Was Jesus trying to teach his Disciples a lesson in “*seeing and yet not seeing*” (Mk 8:18) ?**
- **Personally I am very glad for this 2-step miracle...**

All the other miracles

↳ **Answers were immediate ...**

↳ **Or relatively immediate as they obeyed ...**

We may get the wrong idea

draw the wrong conclusion

get disheartened

This gives you and I Hope

for the SECOND TOUCH.





The Touch

- 1. WHO NEEDS to be TOUCHED**
- 2. WHO WANTS to be TOUCHED**
- 3. WHO NEEDS to be TOUCHED AGAIN**



Japan Appoints Minister Of Loneliness To Tackle Social Isolation Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Loneliness has become an increasing problem in Japan in the past couple of decades with the country witnessing a sharp growth in the elderly population.

Written By Vishal Tiwari



NIKKEI Asia

CORONAVIRUS

Japan appoints 'minister of loneliness' to help people home alone

Rise in suicides pushes Suga to tackle issue as major COVID challenge

SHOGO KODAMA, Nikkei staff writer
February 13, 2021 06:59 JST

Tetsushi Sakamoto

坂本 哲志



Minister of Loneliness

Incumbent

Assumed office

12 February 2021





The Touch

**In this instance –
it's about HEALING**

There is also *The Touch* of...



The Touch

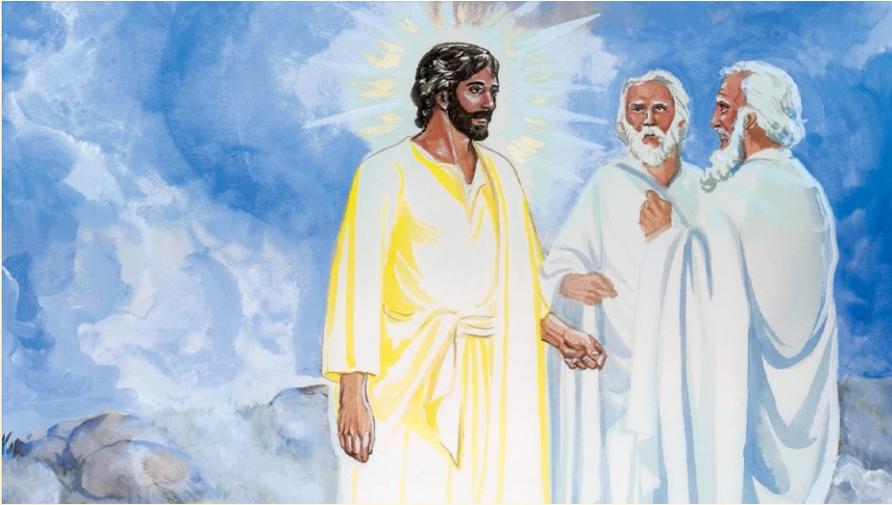
Matt 17:1-13

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@ Transfiguration of Jesus ...

Touch of Comfort & Assurance



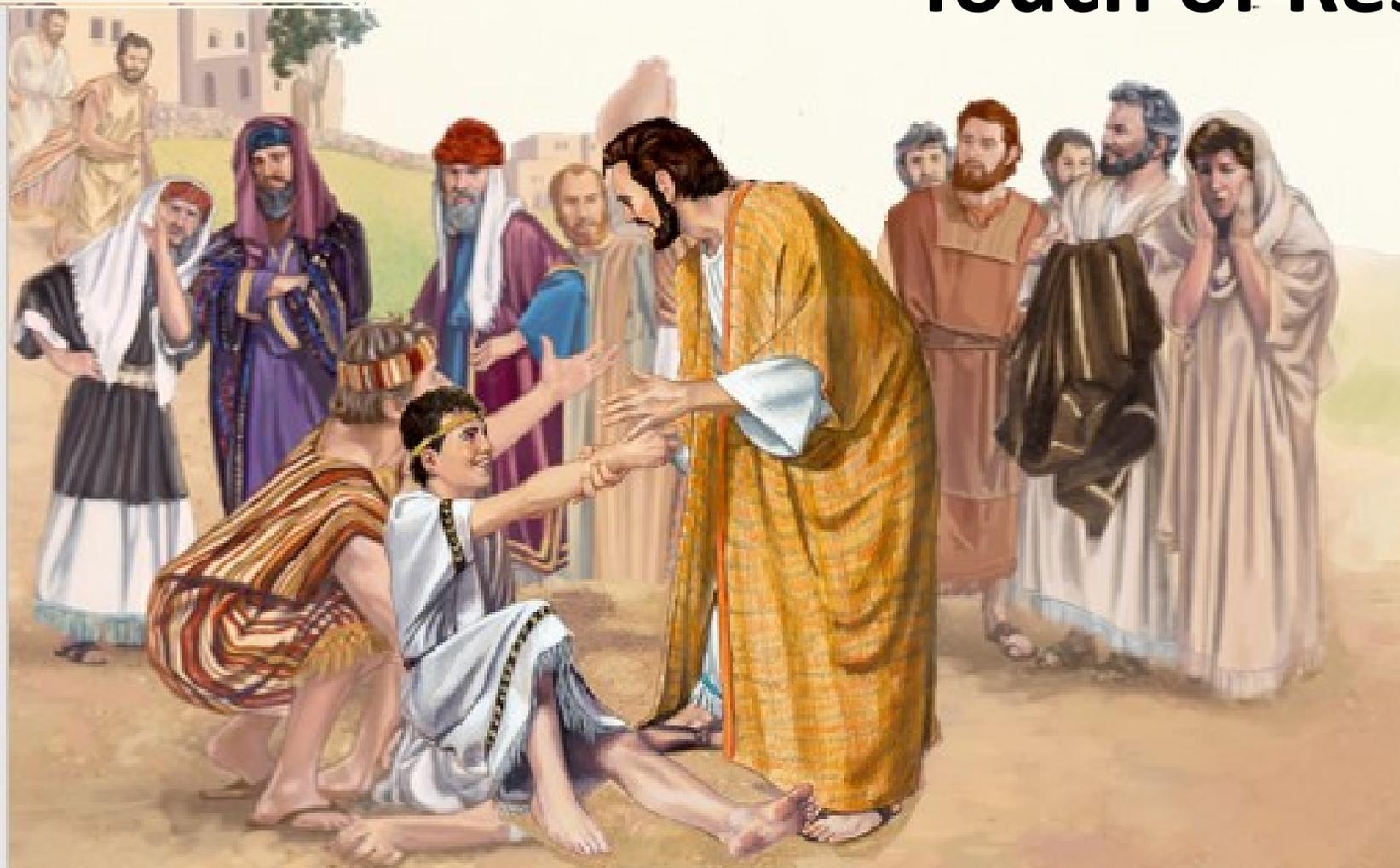
The Touch

Mark 9:14-29

@ "Epileptic Boy"...

Touch of Restoration

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The Touch

Mark 1:40-45

@ Leper

Touch of Acceptance

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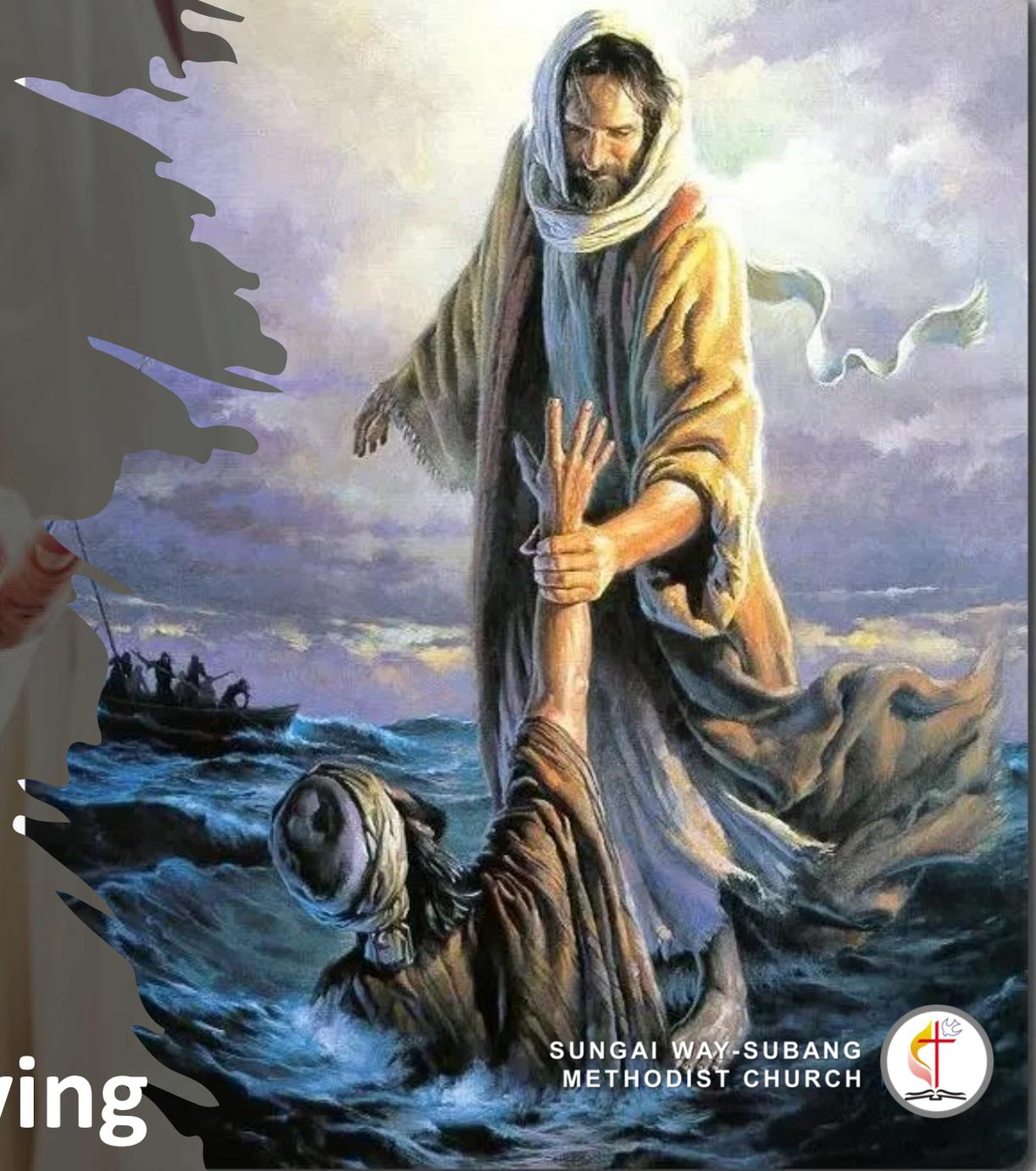


The Touch

Matt 14:29-31

@ *Peter's Drowning*

Touch of Rescuing / Saving



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The Touch

Everyone needs a *Touch* from Jesus ...
the *Touch* by Jesus ...

Some of us need a Fresh *Touch* from Jesus ...
a Second *Touch* by Jesus ...

Whatever your needs are

Jesus has a *Touch* just for you ...

just for your need ...



The TOUCH

Matt 9:20-22

**The woman with the
issue of blood....**

***“If I only touch his cloak,
I will be healed.”***

**In desperation she reach
out and touched Jesus ...**



The Touch

Paraphrase of John 20:27

Jesus said to Thomas ...

*“Reach out and touch me ...
Stop doubting but believe”*

Invitation to Reach Out to the Lord ...

For the Lord to Touch you

and for you to Touch your Lord

