

# Made Perfectly Whole

(4-Jul-2021)

The scripture for today's sermon is found in Matthew 14:34-36. "*And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; 36 And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole*" (Matt. 14:34-36).

I want to also read in Luke 9:10-11, of that time when the disciples came and told Jesus all they had done in preaching as He had sent them, and how Herod, who beheaded John the Baptist, thought that Jesus was John risen again from the dead. At that time, after they returned by Jesus' commission to preach, and after Herod beheaded John, Jesus took them apart with Himself, and when they were there with Him, the people heard of where He was and brought all the diseased to Him that He would heal them. "**10** And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. **11** And the people, when they knew *it*, followed him: and **he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing**" (Luke 9:10-11).

Thus, all who heard of Christ brought to Him all that were diseased, and implored (besought) Him that the diseased might but touch the hem of His garment. All who touched the mere hem of His garment were made perfectly whole! Think of that! Perfectly whole!! I have entitled this message, "Made Perfectly Whole!"

## Introduction

I want to be made perfectly whole, don't you? I want to know that all my sins are taken away. I want to appear in the presence of God in all of His glory, knowing with certainty that there is nothing between my soul and my Savior, nothing that God Himself can find fault with, but that He is pleased with me in perfect harmony

with His holy nature and truth and righteousness. Based on what is written here in scripture, that as many as touched but the hem of Christ's garment were made perfectly whole, I know that **He who is God and Man can make it so that I am made perfectly whole!** And I also know that Christ who alone does so, does so in one way only. And so, I want Christ to heal me by His touch, and I want to touch Him, as these sick folk did when Jesus walked on this earth! Don't you want Jesus, the Son of God, the Christ of God, to heal you by His touch, and to know, in touching Him, that you are made perfectly whole!?

There is a close connection in scripture between sickness and sin. Sickness affects how we feel and our outlook, similar to the way that sin affects us. When we are sick, we feel weak. When we are sick, we feel anxious. If the prognosis (prediction of the doctor based on examination and assessment) is that our disease will last long or that it will have an unexpected outcome, then we despair and fear. Scripture uses physical sickness and healing from sickness to teach us about our sin condition and salvation from sin. Haven't you felt these things as the effects of your sin against God?! Hasn't your sin, and your knowledge of it, made you weak, confused — wondering after all if you are the Lord's and you are His — with anxious, troubling thoughts, feelings of despair and fear?

## Sickness ~ Sin

- Scripture teaches that sickness is the consequence of our sin. Isaiah 1:4-9 describes the effects of Israel's persistent, long, stubborn refusal to be turned by God's chastening hand. "" (Isaiah 1:4-7). It is clear that their sin was the cause of their trouble, and God describes that trouble that came upon them for their sin as a great disease. "**4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. 5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head *there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not***

been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment” (Isaiah 1:4-6).

- Because sickness is a tangible, grievous, felt trouble, the Lord helps us know that sin is our real problem. It is the underlying root cause of all of the confusion and despair and anguish we know. It is more real than physical sickness. Like physical sickness and all trouble (Psalm 107; Numbers 21:4-9), it is meant to direct us to the great Doctor (Physician) of our souls!
- Sickness is a **physical condition**. Sickness mirrors our **spiritual condition**. In scripture, every disease, every plague, **every sickness that Jesus healed teaches salvation from sin**. When Christ healed the sick, they were made perfectly whole! He opened blind eyes. He unstopped deaf ears. He made the mute speak. The crippled and lame walked. Lepers were perfectly cleansed. Those who were paralyzed carried their beds. A bent over woman, unable to stand up, was made straight. A mother-in-law’s fever was cooled. A woman’s unclean flow of blood was stopped. The man’s withered hand was perfectly restored. Lunatics were put in their right mind. Demon possessed men and women and children were delivered from satan. The hungry were fed. Infants were blessed. The dead were raised. **Jesus Christ healed every physical malady, sickness, disease, and plague of body and mind. All of these ailments describe the condition of our heart as sinners, a condition from which only Christ can save us!** That Jesus could (able) and did (willing) heal all manner of sickness and all who came to Him, is intended to lift Him up and shine the light of the Gospel on Him in our eyes to give us immeasurably compelling expectation that we who are diseased will find Him full of compassion towards us and will heal us of all of our sins in coming to Him! He is the great Physician of men’s souls. What comfort we will find in the compassion of the great Physician of our souls, knowing He knows us and cannot fail to make us perfectly whole! He alone can take away our sin. Jesus said, “**The whole do not need a physician. But the sick do.**” (Matt. 9:12; Mark 2:17). “*I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*” **Listen to what Peter said about how Jesus**

**Christ heals our souls:** “*Who his own self*<sup>1</sup> *bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed*” (1 Pet. 2:24). He bore our sins in His own body. By His stripes we were healed. **Christ heals our souls from sin by bearing our sins in His own body under the curse of God’s law** (Gal. 3:13). The purpose for Christ’s coming is clearly explained here (1 Pet. 2:24; Isaiah 53:4-12): **to heal us from the sickness of sin**. How He does that is clearly explained by this one verse: He bore our sins in His own body, carrying them up to the cross, suffering the punishment of God against those sins in Himself. **He took the beating my sins deserved! God beat Him for my sins! He was plagued with my sins and for my sins! The sting of death is sin** (1 Cor. 15:55-56)!! **He died without relief from that sting, but bore its full force and venom!**

- Having borne the plague and sickness of the sins of God’s people as His own, Himself bearing that sting of death that was for their sins, that is how He could and did heal sick folk! It wasn’t merely divine power! It was infinite divine justice measured out in proportion to our offense against God, and that justice fully satisfied that is the reason Christ, who made satisfaction, from His throne, dispensing that relief He died to bring!
- (Isaiah 53:4-8, LITV) “*He is despised and abandoned of men, a Man of pains, and acquainted with sickness. And as it were hiding our faces from Him, He being despised, and we did not value Him. 4 ¶ **Surely He has borne our sicknesses**, and **He carried our pain**; **yet we esteemed Him plagued, smitten by God**, and **afflicted**. 5 But **He was wounded for our transgressions**; **He was bruised for our iniquities**; **the chastisement of***

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<sup>1</sup> **Anaphora** - using the same word or phrase or pronoun to heighten emphasis. Here, “Who”, “His” “Own self” bear our sins in “His own body...” deliberately direct our attention to the preeminence of Christ, and the author’s intent purpose to put the spotlight and focus on Him(!) who bore our sins in His body on the cross! See also, “**Behold(!) my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see!**” (Luke 24:35)! See also the intensity of the Spirit of God through the apostle Paul when he decried the wisdom of this world (1 Cor. 1:20) — “Where is the wise, where is the scribe, where is the disputer of this world?! Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?!” This rhetorical/linguistic tool catches up the reader as in a chariot to ride with the writer to see the wonder of what is being told! “Behold! The Lamb of God! Which taketh away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). Look! See! Behold! Christ the Lord and King of Glory in our nature, bearing all to deliver us by Himself bearing as His our own sin against God and our foolishness (Psalm 69:1-5, 7)!

our peace was upon Him; and with His wounds we ourselves are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have each one turned to his own way; and Jehovah made meet in Him the iniquity (laid upon Him, charged to Him, imputed to Him, accounted to Him) of all of us. 7 He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, but He did not open His mouth. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a ewe (feminine, our sins, His wife) before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from justice; and who shall consider His generation? For He was cut off out of the land of the living; from the transgression of My people, the stroke was to Him.”

- Jesus healed all who had need of healing (Luke 9:10-11). Christ saves all who have a need. Having a need to be healed from sin is a gift of God’s saving grace. Jesus told the Pharisees, *“If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth”* (John 9:41). **Needing Christ is the gift of God and the sign of life!** He heals all who have a need. (Luke 18:13). Christ is the great Physician, the LORD Jehovah, who became my salvation (Isaiah 12:1-2)! **“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou *art* my praise”** (Jer. 17:14)!
- Christ healed all who came to Him for healing. None were turned away. Can you find one case in all of the NT where Jesus turned away a sick person or a needy sinner?! He said, **“*Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out*”** (John 6:37)! If you come needy in all of your sin, He will not cast you out!
- Jesus healed multitudes. **He saves untold millions from their sin** (Rev. 5:9-11).
- Christ healed all manner of sickness, He takes away and forgives every sort of sin and sin of every degree, whether small or great. *“For thy name’s sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is **great**”* (Ps. 25:11). That God who is holy could pardon any iniquity is great! But for Him to pardon GREAT iniquity is GREAT MERCY and GRACE (Ex. 33:18-19; Eph. 1:6, 12, 14 — **“to the praise of the glory of His grace!”**)

- Some in Jesus's day had one kind of sickness and some another. Like sheep, every one of us have turned to our own way. **Each one of us have a special bent toward evil that is uniquely our own. But know this: Christ alone can make us whole.** Only He can take away our sin sickness! He came to save sinners! "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). "**For the transgression of my people was He stricken!**"
- In Jesus' day, each person usually was healed of only one illness. **But each of us have the full combination of every sin in our heart.** Every sickness described in the Gospels is in each one of us in totality (Isaiah 64:6; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:9-19). **We are spiritually blind:** our natural heart is unable to see our blindness(!) or the glory of God in Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4:4-6). **We are deaf.** We cannot hear the truth of the Gospel because it is spiritual (1 Cor. 2:14; John 3:3-6) and because we cannot believe we are that bad and that God is that holy (Jonah 1:11-16). **We cannot speak.** Because the truth of Christ is not in our heart, there is no abundance of Christ out of which we can speak the Gospel (Matt. 12:34). **We are plagued in heart** (1 Kings 8:38). **We are unclean before God** because of our sin (Isa. 1:18; 1 Jn. 1:7). **We are withered, lame, crippled and paralyzed.** We cannot do the will of God. We are **bowled down** by the weight of our guilt under God's law and cannot lift ourselves up. **We have a fever.** God's law condemns our guilty conscience with scorching heat. **We are in darkness, under the deception of satan.** We are deceived concerning God, concerning ourselves and concerning His salvation. And **we are dead in sins.** We are unable to perform any functions of spiritual life. Our disease is not limited to a single sickness. Sin has affected our entire body, nature and soul. Though most whom Christ healed had but one affliction, we are guilty of every sin, and have a nature full of sin!
- **All those Christ healed had a condition that only He could heal.** **There is nothing a man can do to save himself. Christ alone can save me from my sin,** just as the woman with an issue of blood twelve years learned: no physician on earth could help her, but only made her worse (Luke 8:43-48)!

- All whom Jesus healed were **made perfectly whole**. Naaman's skin was made fresh like a child's. The blind saw all things clearly. The lame man went walking and leaping and praising God. The high priest found no uncleanness on the leper that Jesus cleansed. The bowed together woman was made straight. The paralyzed man carried his bed. The deaf man with a speech impediment both heard and spoke clearly. The man's withered hand was restored as the other. **Christ cleanses us from all sin** (1 Jn. 1:7; Lev. 16:30). **He clothes with the garments of salvation! He covers with His own righteousness** (Isa. 54:17; 61:10). God finds no sin in His people. He sees only the perfect righteousness of His own beloved Son, with whom He is well-pleased. "*Thou art all fair my love; I see no spot in thee*" (Song 4:7; Jer. 50:20; 1 John 1:7; Heb. 1:3; Num. 23:21).

**How** the Lord Jesus **healed** sick people in the Gospels shows **how He saves sinners from their sin**.

- Jesus healed by His will. The leper said, "*If **thou wilt**, thou canst make me clean. Jesus said, '**I will**, be thou clean'*" (Matt. 8:2). Christ is the absolute sovereign. He must will my salvation. He said, "*I will.*" He **is** willing to save. He is able to save. He alone can save. I must come to Him as guilty, with no excuse, owning my sin as all my fault. I sin against clear revelation. Sin is **all** my fault and Christ is absolutely sovereign. Therefore, I have only one plea: have mercy on me, THE sinner (Luke 18:13)! **Find reason, O Lord, in yourself, to pardon and cleanse me by your sovereign grace!**
- Jesus healed by His word. All creation leaped out of nothing into perfect completion at His command. "*Where the word of the king is, there is power*" (Eccl. 8:4)! He upholds all things by the power of His word (Heb. 1:3). **The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation** (Rom. 1:16). He must speak His Gospel to our heart. He must command the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in Christ to shine in us (2 Cor. 4:6). Jesus is the Word of God. We are saved by Him only. **His word** alone is the power of God unto salvation. He must send His word to us and with it, give us understanding with faith in Himself!
- He healed by His touch

## He healed by His touch

- At Gennesaret, they went throughout the whole region and carried sick people to Jesus. They begged Him to touch the hem of His garment. All who touched were made perfectly whole.
- Question: How was Jesus able to heal sinful people? Could He have continued on earth, healing and raising the dead, without going to the cross? No. We have a sin problem. **God has been offended! Our sin is against God. God must receive His due.** *“He will by no means clear the guilty”* (Ex. 34:6-8). God’s law must also be honored. Full obedience must be rendered. His justice must be compensated. The guilty must be punished. Man failed to glorify God. *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23). Therefore, before any man can be healed or raised to life from the dead, God must be honored by perfect, continuous obedience in heart, mind, soul and strength. And He must receive full satisfaction for sin (Heb. 10:5-ff). For God to be just and forgive a man’s sin, Christ must take that man’s sin and die under God’s curse for it as that sinner’s substitute.

**Sin cannot be dealt with apart from the cross of Christ. Grace in the heart without Christ on the cross cannot save.** It is not the work of grace in you that makes you righteous before God. It is only the work of Christ for you (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 8:34). Christ could not heal men by coming to earth only, without dying. Only the death of a substitute could take away sin. If God could have made men righteous by infusing grace into them, then Christ died for nothing. God would never afflict His Son needlessly. God required His death. Therefore, God could not save one sinner unless Christ died for them (‘could not’, because it violated His holy self and nature)! *“If righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain”* (Gal. 2:21). Our personal obedience to God’s law cannot put away sin. It cannot clear the guilty. It cannot make us righteous. Christ **must** die!

This is the crux of the matter. There is only one way God's justice can be satisfied. There is only one way God can justify the ungodly. Christ must die as our Substitute. Christ had to take the place of those He saved. He must be holy in His person. He must be holy in His life. He must obey all that God's law required of man. And after yielding perfect obedience, He must bear the punishment for all of the sins of all those He came to save! God removed His people's sins from them. He laid them on Christ. Jesus Christ did no sin and was not guilty of any sin, yet He was "made sin for us" (2 Cor. 5:21). He is holy. He had no sin. He did no sin. Yet God made Him to be sin for us. He bore our sins in His own body (1 Pet. 2:24). His Father and God made His soul an offering for sin (Isaiah 53:10). For the transgression of my people was He stricken (Isaiah 53:8). Christ became guilty. He was not only guilty of our sins, but He was affected by our sins. He experienced the agony (Matt. 26:37-44; Luke 22:44) of our sin. He took our infirmities and therefore knew "*the feeling of our infirmity*" (Heb. 4:15). He carried the sins of His people in His own body up to the tree. The flood of God's wrath came into His soul. He drank the cup of the indignation of the wrath of God. **He drank damnation dry.** All that God's law required to be poured out on sinners was poured upon Him in His body and soul. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him (Isa. 53:5). With His stripes we were healed. He Himself bore our infirmities. He took our sorrows (pain), our griefs (our sin-diseases). He bore them in Himself. Thus, **Christ heals the sin of His people by His touch.** When scripture says **Christ touched someone to heal them, it means that He took their sin to Himself. He owned it as His before God. And He answered God for it.** "*Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses*" (Matt. 8:17).

What Jesus did to heal any, teaches us what He must do to save us from our sins. When Jesus "touched", we must understand it as Him, because of His compassion, taking the defilement and plague of our sin to Himself! Jesus touched the blind man. He touched the leper. He put His finger into the ears of the deaf. He touched the tongue of the mute. He put His hands on the

woman bowed together. He touched the coffin of the widow's dead son. Why? Because **His touch is His compassion towards sinners**. There is no way to adequately describe the compassion of Christ towards sinners. A touch calms; it soothes and comforts. How many times did your mother, by her touch, comfort you as a child? Even grown men welcome their mother's tender compassion. Babies are said to recover more quickly and more completely if they are held. Christ's touch was a touch of compassion. Compassion means to be affected with the same feeling as another, to sympathize with them. Compassion is a tender concern of sympathetic sorrow for someone who is suffering, coupled with urgent aid given to relieve them. Compassion towards the guilty is mercy freely granted to forgive and spare them of the punishment they deserve. When you or I have compassion, there is little more that we can do than convey our deepest sympathy. **But Christ's compassion was vicarious** (doing, bearing by substitution). **He not only felt the feeling of our infirmity, He took it from us so that it was no more ours but His**. He was affected by it. He was plagued (stricken) by God (Isa. 53:4; Ps. 73:14). His touch was a touch of compassion, but it was a **compassion with power to relieve**. **His power to relieve suffering came at a great cost. He bore the full cost to heal us from our sin in His own person**. He suffered the stroke of God (smitten). He was afflicted. He felt anguish (sorrows) of soul. He suffered. He was forsaken. He died. He experienced the full payback for sin that God required in His law against guilty sinners. He cried, "*My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me!?*" In Gethsemane, before any man laid hands on Him, He "*began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them (disciples), My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death*" (Mark. 14:33-34). My **sins!** The **sting** of death!! In Luke 22 He prayed that if it were possible, the cup of suffering would be removed from Him. "*Being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground*" (Luke 22:44). Bloody sweat drawn from Him by the heat of the holy eye of God upon Him with our sins and God's holy wrath against sin. He who is the beloved of the Father prayed: "**If there is any other way, O my Father, take this cup from me!**" He who is

well-pleasing in His Father's sight and who is always heard, prayed to Him with whom nothing is impossible. But it was not possible. He could only take away our sin by bearing it in Himself under God's just wrath (Gal. 2:21)! He who had compassion on men's bodies and souls, asked if there was any other way that this "cup" of God's indignation against sin could be taken from Him. There was not. He therefore felt all of the consequences of sin and its punishment in His body and soul. He knew sin's guilt. In Psalm 40:12 He said, "***Mine iniquities*** have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; ***they are more than the hairs of mine head***: therefore ***my heart faileth me***" (Psalm 40:12)! Do **I** see how Christ was affected by **my** sins?! Do you? He said, "*O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee*" (Psalm 69:5). He cries, "*My loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh*" (Ps. 38:7). Christ healed by His touch. **His compassion moved Him to stand in the place of those He healed. To heal any, He must bear their sins.** To make a sinner perfectly whole, He must bear all of their sins and take them away forever! Matthew 8:16-17 says, He "*...healed all that were sick: 17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses*" (Matt. 8:16-17). 1 Peter 2:24 says, "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed*" (1 Pet. 2:24).

## He healed all who touched Him

Jesus not only touched sinners to heal them, but He healed all who touched Him. **When any touched Christ, it meant that that person came into contact with Him in a way that His virtue entered into them.** This is what happened to the woman who had an issue of blood twelve years (Matt. 9:20-22). She came behind Him in the crowd, in the press. She touched the hem of His garment. When she did, virtue left Christ and entered into her (Luke 6:19; 8:46). The issue of her blood stopped. She felt in herself that she had been made whole. Here, in Matt. 14:36, all those who were sick begged

Jesus to touch only the hem of His garment. And all who touched were made perfectly whole. What does this teach? It teaches us that when we come to Christ, when by the Spirit of God we are enabled to believe Him, we behold and receive in ourselves the effects of His salvation for us. Hence, believing Christ is the **result** of His redeeming blood that enables us to take saving, cleansing virtue from Him to ourselves as our very own!

**Numbers 15:38-40** illustrates how touching Christ's garments heals. God commanded the men of Israel to make fringes in the borders of their garments. He said to Moses,

*"38 Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: 39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: 40 That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God" (Numbers 15:38-40).*

Notice (see Gal. 2:16): **in the law, our being HOLY is THE RESULT OF DOING ALL**

The blue band on the fringe of their garment reminded them of God's commandments that they were to keep to be holy before God. But since no man can be holy by his personal obedience to God's law (Rom. 3:20), THEREFORE THIS SCRIPTURE IS ONLY FULFILLED IN CHRIST, and in all who believe Him (Jer. 23:6; 33:16; Rom. 8:3-4; 10:4). Christ honored God's law by keeping it. He honored God's law by enduring its punishment. By His union with His people, He stood in their place before God. All that God requires of believers has been met by Christ's obedience unto death. All that He did is theirs (1 Cor. 1:30). In Luke 24, Jesus came to two on the road to Emmaus. And "beginning at Moses and all the prophets,

*expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself*” (Luke 24:25-27). **Therefore, all things in the OT ultimately point to Christ.** The blue ribbon on the fringe of their garments reminded Israel what God required them to do to be holy. In fulfillment of this law, Christ made Himself holy as our High Priest. He sanctified Himself and sanctified His people. In His high priestly prayer in John 17:19 He prayed to His Father on behalf of His people: “***for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth***” (John 17:19). How did He sanctify Himself? By doing the will of His Father. His Father’s **will** was that He take the sins of His people and offer Himself in suffering and death under God’s law with their sins made His very own (1 Pet. 2:24; Heb. 10:1-18; Ps. 40:6-12; Ps. 69:1-7). It was by His obedience to this will of God (as their covenant head and Testator) that Christ sanctified His people. “***By the which will we are sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once -- in time, for all time and eternity***” (Heb. 10:10). THE GOSPEL REVEALS (in contrast to the law) THAT WE ARE MADE HOLY — NOT BY OUR DOING — BUT BY CHRIST’S DOING — SHEDDING HIS BLOOD. “Wherefore **Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood**, suffered without the gate” (Heb. 13:12). This is the truth of the Gospel. This is the truth by which Christ’s people are sanctified. Jesus Christ sanctified Himself to God for His people. And they are made holy — sanctified — in Him. The truth by which believers are sanctified is the truth of the Gospel, because it declares how Christ sanctified His people by offering Himself to God. Believing this truth honors God’s justice and truth. It sanctifies the believing heart (Acts 26:18).

**As the hem on the garment reminded Israel what God required them to do to be holy, the hem of Christ’s garment signifies what He must do by His obedience in life and death to make His people holy** (Philippians 2:6-8). He did not live for Himself. He obeyed God to establish everlasting righteousness for His people. He did not die for Himself. He died with the sins of His people to satisfy God in justice and put away their sins (2 Cor. 5:21; Isa. 53:4-5; Ps. 40:12). He suffered and died with the guilt of those sins

under the curse of God. He repaid their debt to God's justice in their place by substituting Himself as their Surety (Gen. 44:18-34; Heb. 7:22).

We thus see the significance of touching the hem of Christ's garment. **First, He touches us.** His compassion moves Him to heal sin-sick souls — by taking their sins, making them His, and satisfying God for them. **He answered for them all.** He finished the will of God. His obedience to God's will is our righteousness. And, by His touch, He gives us life and faith in Himself. In His touch we see that He bore our sins before God. In the **second place, we touch Him by the faith that He gives.** All for whom Christ died are made to know — made aware of the sickness of their sin come and take of Christ by faith as the propitiation of God for them (Rom. 3:25; Luke 18:13). They receive His virtue. They receive the knowledge of the forgiveness of their sins. The plague of their sin is taken away. **When you or I are enabled to touch Christ by faith, we receive the virtue of His obedience unto death.** We know the forgiveness of sins in our conscience, by faith in His blood. He has made us holy by offering Himself to God. We stand on this by faith. He perfected us forever. His word tells us and believe it in our hearts. We are comforted by His compassion. By touching Him, we have "*joy and peace in believing*" (Rom. 15:13).

All who touched the hem of Christ's garments were made perfectly whole. It is His righteousness that makes us perfectly whole before God. As Ruth asked Boaz to spread his skirt over her, faith comes to Christ to find Him to be our covering.

Isaiah 61:10 says it all: "*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels*" (Isa. 61:10).