

# The Touch of Jesus

*“Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.” (Luke 4:40)*

Lessons from miracles Jesus did, as they are recorded in the Book of Luke.

## LESSON 5: Healing Certain Women

*“And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, and Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.”*

(Luke 8:2-3)

As you listen to the teacher, fill in the blanks!

1. Who said that the centurion was worthy of a miracle?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The principle of authority indicates that results can be expected from saying  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus said that the centurion had great \_\_\_\_\_.

The ministry of Jesus as told in the Book of Luke is a beautiful story, made up of beautiful stories! We are examining the accounts of His miracles in this important part of the Bible. Everyone in class should try to read Luke all the way through before the end of November. Your reading of the whole book will enrich your life as much as our Sunday studies of the miracles.

Luke 8 begins with a brief account of what some of the people who were healed did for Jesus after their deliverance. Verse 1 says that the Lord Jesus “*went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.*” Remember that His main ministry was preaching the Word. Healings were performed simply to help people He met on His preaching tours. Spiritual miracles were always more important to Him than physical miracles. “*The twelve,*” the men He had chosen to train for the Gospel ministry (See Luke 6:13), went with Him. Then in verses 2 and 3 we are told that “*certain women*” also followed Him, “*which ministered unto him out of their substance.*” In other words, they provided Him and His disciples with food and other necessities out of their own pockets. These ladies are named for us: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna. How did Jesus know them? The Bible says that they “*had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities*” by Him.

## ***“Women”***

The New Testament clearly specifies gender qualifications for certain offices in the church. Bishops (pastors) and deacons are to be *“the husbands of one wife”* (I Timothy 3:2, 12), obviously male. *“A woman”* is not to teach or *“to usurp authority over the man”* (I Timothy 2:12). These things are clear. Complaining about God restricting them in these ways, some women protest that the Bible keeps them from serving the Lord! Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Women are not to pastor, or to preach to a group that includes men, but they certainly may *prophesy*. See Acts 21:9 and I Corinthians 11:5. Also notice Acts 2:17. To prophesy means to speak under the influence of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, Deborah and Huldah (Judges 4:4, II Kings 22:14) were prophetesses. Women do not properly occupy a position of authority over men in the church (such as bishop), and they do not teach or preach with authority to men in the church (thus undermining the order of their home), but they can and should be filled with the Holy Spirit, and speak in His power.

This Spirit-endued speaking would include witnessing for Christ one-on-one as in Acts 2, as well as teaching women and children as we see in Titus 2.

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna *“ministered”* to Christ *“out of their substance.”* Apparently all three of them were wealthy. We see that Joanna was the wife of a king’s steward (business manager), but the other two must also have had a good amount of *“substance.”* They gave of their labor and of their money to help the Cause of Christ and His Gospel. So many women do today.

It is interesting how human nature wants to focus on God’s restrictions. The Devil does that, too. God is very generous, and was so in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. He said that they might *“freely eat”* of *“every tree”* in the garden. He only prohibited the taking of fruit from the tree that would destroy them (Genesis 2:16-17). But the Devil said, *“Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”* (Genesis 3:1). His emphasis was on the restriction. He wanted God to seem too strict. So do the “Christian feminists” of our day. Just because a woman can’t be a pastor or preach to men, does that make God mean? Maybe a lady would not want to be the pastor or on the deacon board if she knew all that went with these jobs! Anyway, it is always right to serve God in His way. How can we say that we are *serving* Him if we won’t *obey* Him? Women can follow the lead of Deborah, and Huldah, and Miriam, and Ruth, and Esther, and the three women of Luke 8, and serve the Lord in the proper way!

## ***“Healed”***

These good ladies served Jesus in gratitude for what He had done for them. Without a doubt they were believers, saved from their sins by faith in Him (See Luke 7:48-50). Also they had been *“healed of evil spirits and infirmities.”* They served the Lord out of gratitude. See in Luke 18 that a blind man at Jericho *“followed him”* [Jesus] and was *“glorifying God”* right after Jesus healed Him. This we should do, too. What has Jesus done for you? Shouldn’t you serve Him? Look at Romans 12:1.

Mary Magdalene had been devil-possessed (v. 2), but God used her in a great way. Follow her to Luke 24:1-10. See in John 20:1-18 (also noting Mark 16:9-11) the special privilege God gave her that first Easter Sunday. No matter what your background is, God can use you in a great way. He saved you from your sins, from your problems, and from your past, so that you could serve Him with your life!