

Luke 6:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

Analysis

The Power of Christ's Healing Presence

This remarkable verse captures a mass healing event that demonstrates Jesus's divine power and compassion. The Greek word ὅχλος (ochlos, "multitude") emphasizes the large crowd pressing around Jesus. The phrase "sought to touch him" uses ἐζήτουν ἅπτεσθαι (ezētoun haptesthai), indicating earnest, determined effort to make physical contact.

The most striking element is the phrase "virtue out of him," translating δύναμις (dynamis), meaning "power" or "ability." This is the root of our word "dynamite," suggesting explosive, transformative energy. This wasn't magical power requiring ritual or formula, but divine healing power flowing from Christ's person. The use of "virtue" in the KJV beautifully captures both power and moral excellence united in Christ.

The phrase "healed them all" (ἰάτο πάντας, iato pantas) is comprehensive—no one seeking healing was turned away. This demonstrates that Christ's power was sufficient for every need and every person. The passage shows healing power emanating from Jesus continuously, not requiring conscious effort on His part for each individual miracle.

Historical Context

This event occurs during Jesus's Galilean ministry, likely on the plain near Capernaum after He chose the twelve apostles (Luke 6:12-17). The crowd included people from diverse regions: Judaea, Jerusalem, Tyre, and Sidon (coastal Phoenician cities). This geographic diversity shows Jesus's fame spreading beyond Jewish territories into Gentile areas. In first-century Jewish culture, physical touch was considered a means of transmitting both ritual impurity and divine blessing. The woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8:43-48) later demonstrated similar faith by touching Jesus's garment. Ancient medical practice was limited, making Jesus's healings particularly dramatic and significant. The crowd's behavior reflects the Mediterranean cultural pattern of pressing around important figures, though typically not with such desperation. The gathering of such diverse peoples presages the gospel's eventual spread to all nations, demonstrating that Christ's healing power transcends ethnic and cultural boundaries.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the physical manifestation of healing power from Jesus teach us about the nature of His divine presence?
2. How does the crowd's desperate pursuit of Jesus contrast with contemporary approaches to seeking God?
3. In what ways do we need to "touch" Jesus today, and what does faith-filled contact with Christ look like in our time?
4. Why did Jesus allow His power to flow freely to heal all who came, and what does this reveal about God's heart?
5. How should the comprehensive nature of Christ's healing ("healed them all") shape our expectations when we pray for others?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	πάντας	ό	ὄχλος	ἐζήτει	ἄπτεσθαι	αὐτοῦ	ὅτι
And	the whole	G3588	multitude	sought	to touch	him	for
G2532	G3956		G3793	G2212	G680	G846	G3754
δύναμις	παρ'	αὐτοῦ	ἐξήρχετο	καὶ	ἰάτο	πάντας	
virtue	out	him	there went	And	healed	the whole	
G1411	G3844	G846	G1831	G2532	G2390	G3956	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 14:36 (Parallel theme): And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Mark 3:10 (Parallel theme): For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.

Mark 6:56 (Parallel theme): And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

Mark 5:30 (Parallel theme): And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

Mark 8:22 (Parallel theme): And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

1 Peter 2:9 (Parallel theme): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Acts 19:12 (Parallel theme): So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Luke 5:17 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were

come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

2 Kings 13:21 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

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