

Luke 8:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

Analysis

And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? Jesus' question "Who touched me?" (Tis ho hapsamenos mou, Τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός μου) seems absurd given the pressing crowd. His disciples recognized this—"when all denied" (arnoumenōn de pantōn, ἀρνούμενων δὲ πάντων) indicates the crowd collectively protested that identifying one touch among many was impossible. Peter's response represents the disciples' pragmatic incredulity.

Peter addressed Jesus as "Master" (Epistata, Ἐπιστάτα), Luke's characteristic term emphasizing Jesus' teaching authority and leadership. His question "the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?" (hoi ochloi sunechousin se kai apothlibousin, kai legeis, Τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός μου;) expresses bewilderment. The verbs sunechō (συνέχω, "hem in, constrain") and apothlibō (ἀποθλίβω, "press against, crowd") convey the crush of bodies surrounding Jesus.

Yet Jesus distinguished between casual physical contact and faith-filled touch. Hundreds touched Him physically as the crowd pressed, but one person touched Him spiritually—reaching out in desperate faith, believing His power could heal. This distinction remains crucial: religious activity, church attendance, and proximity to Christian community differ fundamentally from personal faith that

grasps Christ for salvation. Jesus perceives the difference between mere contact and genuine trust.

Historical Context

Peter's bold, sometimes presumptuous responses to Jesus appear throughout the Gospels—here questioning Jesus' seemingly illogical inquiry, later rebuking Jesus' prediction of suffering (Matthew 16:22), declaring he would never deny Christ (Matthew 26:33-35), then doing exactly that. Peter's impetuosity reflects genuine devotion combined with incomplete understanding—a pattern common among disciples still learning to trust Jesus' wisdom beyond appearances.

The crowd's size and press around Jesus illustrates His immense popularity during this Galilean ministry phase. Multitudes followed Him everywhere, seeking healing, teaching, and miracles. In such chaos, identifying one specific touch seemed impossible—yet Jesus' divine omniscience perceived not just physical contact but spiritual intention. He knew immediately that healing power had flowed from Him in response to faith.

This incident occurred while Jairus waited desperately for Jesus to reach his dying daughter. The delay caused by Jesus' question and the coming dialogue (vv. 46-48) would test Jairus' faith severely. From human perspective, Jesus was wasting precious time on what seemed an insignificant matter while a child lay dying. Yet divine wisdom operates beyond human urgency, accomplishing multiple purposes simultaneously.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' distinction between casual physical contact and faith-filled touching challenge superficial religious participation?
2. What does Peter's bold questioning reveal about the disciples' ongoing process of learning to trust Jesus' wisdom beyond appearances?
3. How should we respond when God's timing seems to ignore our urgent needs to address what appears less important?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς Τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός μου
And **said** G2532 G2036 G3588 **Jesus** **Who** G3588 **touched** **me**
G2424 G5101 G680 G3450

ἀρνούμενων δὲ πάντων εἶπεν ὁ Πέτρος καὶ οἱ
denied **When** **all** **said** G3588 **Peter** **And** G3588
G720 G1161 G3956 G2036 G4074 G2532

μετ' αὐτοῦ, Ἐπιστάτα οἱ ὄχλοι συνέχουσίν
they that were with **him** **Master** G3588 **the multitude** **throng**
G3326 G846 G1988 G3793 G4912

σε καὶ ἀποθλίβουσιν καὶ λέγεις, Τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός
thee **And** **press** **And** **sayest** **Who** G3588 **touched**
G4571 G2532 G598 G2532 G3004 G5101 G680

μου
me
G3450