

Matthew 14:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Analysis

And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment (καὶ παρεκάλουν αὐτὸν ἵνα μόνον ἅψωνται τοῦ κρασπέδου τοῦ ἱματίου αὐτοῦ)—The verb παρακαλέω (parakaleō, 'to beseech, to beg') shows humble petition. The request to touch μόνον ('only') the κράσπεδον (kraspedon, 'fringe, tassel') recalls the woman with the hemorrhage (9:20-22) who was healed by touching Jesus's garment. The κράσπεδον refers to the τσιτσίτ (tzitzit), the tassels commanded in Numbers 15:38-39 and Deuteronomy 22:12, worn by pious Jews as reminders of God's commandments.

And as many as touched were made perfectly whole (καὶ ὅσοι ἥψαντο διεσώθησαν)—The verb διασώζω (diasōzō, 'to save thoroughly, to bring safely through, to cure') in aorist passive indicates complete healing. The phrase ὅσοι ἥψαντο ('as many as touched') emphasizes the universality—everyone who touched in faith was healed. No power was lost from Jesus despite multiple recipients. His healing wasn't like a finite battery draining but like an inexhaustible fountain—the more who drew from Him, the more remained available. This validates both Christ's deity and the efficacy of faith-filled contact with Him.

Historical Context

The wearing of tassels (tzitzit) on garment corners was a visible mark of Jewish covenant faithfulness. The blue cord in the tassel reminded wearers of heaven and God's commandments (Numbers 15:39). Jesus wore these as an observant Jew, but

what for others was merely ritual became for Him a point of contact through which divine power flowed. The mass healings demonstrated messianic credentials—Isaiah 53:4-5 promised the Messiah would bear our sicknesses.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does seeking to touch even Jesus's garment reveal about humble faith versus presumptuous demands?
2. How does Christ's inexhaustible power encourage you when you feel there's not enough grace for your overwhelming needs?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	παρεκάλουν	αὐτοῦ·	ἵνα	μόνον	ἤψαντο	τοῦ
And	besought	him	that	only	they might	G3588
G2532	G3870	G846	G2443	G3440	G680	
κρασπέδου	τοῦ	ἱματίου	αὐτοῦ·	καὶ	ὅσοι	ἤψαντο
the hem	G3588	of his garment	him	And	as many as	they might
G2899		G2440	G846	G2532	G3745	G680
διεσώθησαν						
were made perfectly whole						
G1295						

Additional Cross-References

Luke 6:19 (Parallel theme): And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

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.

Acts 3:16 (Creation): And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

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