

*God Wants to Use You*  
**The Power of a Godly Touch**  
*Keith Shepherd*

**I. Introduction**

- A. Our hands can become instruments of grace!

**II. The Power of a Godly Touch**

- A. Matthew 8:1-4 (NLT)

*<sup>1</sup>Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." <sup>3</sup>Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy."*

- B. The story of an ultimate outcast

1. Leprosy was the most dreaded disease in the ancient world.
2. The social consequences of leprosy were just as severe as the physical consequences.
3. Having leprosy is symbolic of being the ultimate outcast.
4. We isolate the "wounded" too!
5. These people choose not to be touched at all rather than risk being hurt again.

- C. Matthew 8:3 (NLT)

*Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared.*

1. Can't we offer the same touch?
2. Keep in mind the perspective of the "lepers" of the world!

**III. Conclusion**