

**Electricity** ... it can be shocking! It gives us the power to turn things ON and OFF, UP and DOWN. Power runs our homes and offices, our cities, and well . . . most of our world. Power – of another kind – generates our decisions, influences the undercurrents in our relationships, fuels our governments and sparks conflict around our globe. Power isn't just an inanimate phenomenon of physics. It is lived out and animated through the movements and currents we create every day.

Do you remember that favorite childhood game of “drag-your-feet-on-the-carpet-then-reach-out-and-touch-someone”? When it worked just right, it ended in a powerful spark at our fingertips and a loud, rewarding “OUCH!” from a friend! Well, carpet or no carpet, we still have amazing powers stored up within us. And, whether we're aware of it or not, our touch still leaves its impression on all who come close enough to feel it.

There are thousands of stories from around the globe of the tremendous power that can be found in just one human being – power to change lives, to heal and to do good. One such story is of a woman who struggled through a crowd to get close enough to Jesus to just touch the hem of his garment. She knew that he was sent from God, and therefore had great power. And she knew that if she could just reach out and touch him, her life would be changed forever.

“She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak... ‘Who touched me?’ Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, ‘Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.’ But Jesus said, ‘Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.’” Luke 8

Two lives, one touch. One moment she would always remember, and one the world would never forget. So, what was it about Jesus that drew her so fervently to him? What was it about him that gave him this “spark” of radiating power? Did this power to heal and to change lives exist within him because he was the Son of God – for us to marvel at? ... or because he was the Son of Man – for us to emulate?

And so now, what does this ask of us? Of you? Take a moment to find your own answer to these questions...

- ✚ Where does the power come from in my life?  
My education? My attitudes? My gifts? My wealth?  
My position? My accomplishments? The Divine? Elsewhere?
- ✚ How do I use my power to do good in this life?
- ✚ Do I ever misuse my power, or use it at the expense of another?

Am I feeling “plugged in” to the Divine Source of all power, or  
am I feeling a bit “disconnected”?

As believers, we each greet the day with the same invitation to call upon and to share in the creative and healing powers of our God. Jesus had tremendous power. We saw him draw upon it each time he turned enemies into friends, the lame into travelers, the blind into witnesses, the lost into leaders, and the dead into the living. We saw how he used his power in his relationships with his family both here on earth and in heaven, as well as with his closest and dearest friends such as Lazarus, Peter and Judas. We saw it animated ...

- when Jesus showed honor and respect to his mother, and shared the joy of new wine with a young bride and her groom,
- when he breathed New Life into the stilled heart of an old friend,
- as he forgave those who very publicly denied him and most bitterly betrayed him,
- when Jesus promised those closest to him that he would always love them, and
- when he surrendered, at last, all of the power left in his body and soul so that God could give him a miracle.

Your turn.

#### **A Sacred Scripture**

“Very truly I tell you, all who have faith in me will do the works I have been doing,  
and they will do even *greater things* than these ...” John 14:12

#### **An Intention**

As my hand reaches for a source of power in my surroundings,  
I will remember that my hands are their most powerful when folded in prayer.  
I will not be afraid of the miraculous things my Creator is waiting to do through me –  
things which will bring Him glory, and things which may just amaze us both.