Monday
An Undiscerning Spirit

'...And You say, "Who touched Me?"' Luke 8:45

One day a chronically ill woman who had hemorrhaged for 12 years pushed her way through the crowd and touched the hem of Jesus' garment. And immediately she was healed. ‘Jesus asked, “Who touched Me?” When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, “Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'” But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all...how she was healed immediately.

What's at work in this story? Understand this: Jesus can tell the difference between the indiscriminate touch of the crowd, and a touch of faith. Faith draws on His power and brings results! Notice, this woman touched the 'hem' of Jesus' garment. The last thing a dressmaker does when she makes a garment is to sew up the hem. So the hem represents 'the finished work'. What do you need today? Forgiveness of sins? Healing? Reach out in faith and touch Jesus, and you too will be made whole.

Tuesday

“The Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear.” (2 Timothy 2:17a NLT)

When you're lonely, you need to focus on others and not yourself. Loneliness is often a fear of love. We're afraid to be open. We’re afraid to be vulnerable. We're afraid to share how we really feel. We're afraid to step out and risk a relationship because we might be rejected, and we know what that pain feels like.

The key to overcoming loneliness is to stop building walls and start building bridges. Stop building walls between you and other people. Start building bridges. Take a risk. Begin to help other people. There are thousands of people in the world who need your love. Re-channel it. If you hold it
in, it's going to dry up and wither away. You need to find a ministry, a place you can use your talents and gifts to help other people.

Wednesday
Laying Down Your Life for Your Wife

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father" (John 10:17,18).

Jesus was called to lay down His life for His bride, the Church. Men are called to emulate this same "laying down" our lives for our wives - our earthly brides. Men are to be a physical representation of what Christ has done for each of us. As we men do this, we experience the love of the Father. Wives will experience the love of the Father as husbands do this. Most of us men fight this process due to our own insecurities, independence, pride and ego. However, it is the very laying down our lives that allows us to connect to the Father just as Jesus connected to His Father.

Giving up our lives for our wives feels like just that - giving up our life. We give up rights, privileges, and desires. We focus only on them. When we become dead, God loves us by giving us the desires of our heart. We give up life, in order to gain it. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25). This principle is key to impacting the marketplace for Jesus Christ. The family has been greatly wounded by a failure to understand this principle. Today, if you are a husband, commit yourself to laying down your life for your bride.

Thursday
Martha’s Bad Rap

"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead" (James 2:26).

Martha has been unfairly criticized in the history of the Church. Mary and Martha were entertaining Jesus in their home when Martha complained to Jesus about Mary simply sitting at the feet of
Jesus rather than assisting her with the needs of the meal. Let me ask you an important question. Who would you rather hire Mary or Martha?

I can tell you I would rather hire Martha in my business. There are times in the body of Christ where we simply come and worship and fail to activate our faith lives in practical expression. The truth is we need to model both Mary and Martha in our Christian lives. There are times when we are called to sit at the feet of Jesus and worship Him. But we must always have an outlet of expressing the love of God through practical deeds. This is the point of contact to the world for the gospel. And we all need a point of expression of our faith that the world can see. What type of expression might He call you to have?

Friday
Fearful Spirit

'They came to Him...saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"...' Luke 8:24

Jesus got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. But as they sailed, He fell asleep. And a storm came down...and they...were in jeopardy. And they...awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water...But He said to them, "Where is your faith?"

A fearful spirit. No matter how often God blesses us and answers our prayers, we still give in to fear the next time we face a crisis, especially when it's one we haven't faced before. Who told the disciples to get into the boat in the first place? Jesus. Understand this: faith doesn't exempt you from life's storms; it equips you to go through them. And when you are in the will of God; no storm, however severe, can take you under. Jesus knew the storm was coming before the disciples ever stepped into the boat. So the word for you today is, 'Don't be afraid. The Lord is with you; you are going to make it to the other side.'

Saturday
Face to Face

"I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete." 2 John 12

It is easy to fire off a letter to someone in this age of electronic communication because of its expediency. In business we call this being efficient. However, there are times when nothing but a face-to-face meeting is the appropriate means of communication. We know that verbal skills are a
very small portion of communication. Body language, voice tone, and our expressions make up the majority of our overall communication. This cannot be seen through a letter or electronic medium.

I once had to confront some business problems we were having in a business deal. The other party lived in another town. The negotiations had stalled. I could have attempted to solve the problem over the phone. But I realized the serious nature of the issues required a face-to-face meeting. I drove hours to meet with the other party face to face. It made all the difference. It demonstrated to my friend that I was serious enough about solving the problem to take a day to come see him. It also showed I valued him and he was worth the effort. This resulted in him giving greater emphasis to the issue.

Sunday
Transforming Your Workplace

This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9-10).

What would your workplace look like if this prayer were answered today where you work? "Transformation" is a powerful word. Just hearing it, you almost automatically think of radical conversions and incredible change. But is it possible to transform your workplace into something Christ-like? Jesus thinks so.

That prayer can be answered in very business owned by a Christian. It would require a few things, like: a) Doing your business the Christian way. b) Do not take bribe or give it. c) Do not cheat your customer by using unfair measure. d) Pray daily to commit the business and the employers to the Lord every day. e) Compensate employees well for job done. That's transformation. And that's the kind of transformation we can see in our workplaces. We just have to find the vision and the willingness to ask God, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?"