

*“...Taking hold of the man, He healed him and sent him on his way.”*

**Luke 14:4**

This verse is easy to overlook because it comes in the middle of a longer story about how Jesus was interacting with the Pharisees who were not happy about Him healing on the Sabbath day. But as I was reading this morning, I thought about the experience of the man who was healed. For him, everything changed that day. The more I thought about the man, the more I realized that this is what Jesus does to all of us—it is what He did to me! He took hold of me, healed me and sent me on my way.

At one time in my life, while I was a believer, I was a broken one—I had suffered loss and grief weighed me down. I had not lost my faith, but I was limited by low expectations. My prayers were about getting through the day, not about the coming of the kingdom. But Jesus had hold of me and He did not let go. He gently called me to Himself, deepened my love for Him and dared me to trust Him for greater things. He healed my heart and set me free of my fears and sent me on my way. He gave me a mission—His mission—to serve Him and seek His kingdom. I have the privilege of carrying His invitation to those who need to know His love and His healing touch.

It is a great joy to see Jesus take hold of and heal one who has met Jesus through me.

*Jesus, Thank You for the privilege of carrying Your invitation to those who need to hear it. Remind us of the way that You have taken hold of, healed and sent each one of us. Empower us to serve You with both joy and courage. Amen.*

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