**And those who touched him were saved**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 8 (Mk 6,53-56)**

In Ancient Scripture many prodigies that occurred by contact are narrated. The first takes place immediately after crossing the Red Sea on dry feet: *“Then Moses led Israel forward from the Red Sea, and they marched out to the desert of Shur. After traveling for three days through the desert without finding water, they arrived at Marah, where they could not drink the water, because it was too bitter. Hence this place was called Marah. As the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" he appealed to the LORD, who pointed out to him a certain piece of wood. When he threw this into the water, the water became fresh. It was here that the LORD, in making rules and regulations for them, put them to the test. "If you really listen to the voice of the LORD, your God," he told them, "and do what is right in his eyes: if you heed his commandments and keep all his precepts, I will not afflict you with any of the diseases with which I afflicted the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer." Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.”* (Ex 15,22-26). A second wonder takes place in the desert. The cliff gives water after being hit by Moses with his stick: *“So Moses took the staff from its place before the LORD, as he was ordered. He and Aaron assembled the community in front of the rock, where he said to them, "Listen to me, you rebels! Are we to bring water for you out of this rock?" Then, raising his hand, Moses struck the rock twice with his staff, and water gushed out in abundance for the community and their livestock to drink. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you were not faithful to me in showing forth my sanctity before the Israelites, you shall not lead this community into the land I will give them." These are the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites contended against the LORD, and where he revealed his sanctity among them” (Num 20,6-13).*Lack of faith cost Moses not entering the Promised Land. He did not instantly manifest the glory of the Lord.

At the command of the prophet, the waters of the Jordan heal Naaman the Syrian from leprosy: “When *Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his garments, he sent word to the king: "Why have you torn your garments? Let him come to me and find out that there is a prophet in Israel." Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. The prophet sent him the message: "Go and wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will heal, and you will be clean." But Naaman went away angry, saying, "I thought that he would surely come out and stand there to invoke the LORD his God, and would move his hand over the spot, and thus cure the leprosy. Are not the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be cleansed?" With this, he turned about in anger and left. But his servants came up and reasoned with him. "My father," they said, "if the prophet had told you to do something extraordinary, would you not have done it? All the more now, since he said to you, 'Wash and be clean,' should you do as he said." So Naaman went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times at the word of the man of God. His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. (Cfr. 2Kg 5,1-14).* In truth, the miracle is not the fruit of contact but of faith in the Word of God and in that of the prophet.

*After making the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret and tied up there. As they were leaving the boat, people immediately recognized him. They scurried about the surrounding country and began to bring in the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. Whatever villages or towns or countryside he entered, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak; and as many as touched it were healed.*

Jesus is more than fire, more than water. Whoever touches the fire burns. Whoever touches the water gets wet. Whoever touches Jesus with faith is healed of all evil. It is not contact that heals, but faith in Christ Jesus, confessed as a true man of God. There is nothing magical about what happens. Whoever touches Jesus with faith heals, whoever does not touch him with faith remains in his infirmity. It happens as with the copper serpent raised in the desert. Whoever looked at him with faith was healed. The others died. Healing is the fruit of true faith in Christ Jesus. Of course, we still cannot speak of full and perfect faith. And yet it is true faith. Jesus is a person who comes from God.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us touch Jesus with true faith.