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Jesus in a Space of Touch in the Gospel of John

Summary

The aim of this dissertation is to analyse how Jesus touches the others and how He is touched by them. In recent years there is increasing amount of researches dealing with nonverbal communication in biblical and ancient history studies. It may be reasoned by dynamic development of social sciences which may bring some inspiration to the biblical studies. So far we haven't noticed researches devoted to only one aspect of nonverbal communication or concentrated on a single character. Moreover Polish researches connected with nonverbal communication remain not numerous. Therefore this dissertation aims at addressing this issue and popularize current research as well.

In the first chapter are presented basic issues important in research of nonverbal communication. Secondly, there is described *status quaestionis*. The last part of this chapter deals with methodology.

The second chapter contains analysis of terminology connected with touching – including Hebrew and Greek terms. Furthermore there is historical and cultural context of touch in the Bible included, i.e. touch and cognition, gestures of hands, women' touch, touch and healing, cleanliness and impurity and access to the temple.

In the third chapter there are presented important aspects of historical context of origins of the Gospel of John. There is authorship, place, time and structure included. Moreover there is presented placement of pericopes describing touch in the structure of a whole Gospel. In the end there is a classification of all pericopes proposed.

The fourth chapter contains exegetical analysis. It has been conducted according to the described classification. The first group – pericopes where touch is mentioned, however not necessarily occurs. The second group – contains texts where interpersonal touch is described. The third group deals with pericopes about touching objects.

The fifth chapter attempts to summarise theological conclusions. There is described intentionality of touch, subject and object of touch. Furthermore, there are mentioned reactions to touch and witnesses of touch. There is also analysed aspect of women's touch, issue of cleanliness and impurity and access to the temple. Moreover there is mentioned terminological context and picture of Jesus and people relating to Him in the Gospel of John.