

Title: The Lord and the Leper

Passage: Mark 1:40-45

Introduction:

John 20:30-31

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- same theme for all the gospel books in the Bible.

Passage: Mark 1:40-45

And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

Miracle Workings of Jesus

Luke 6:19

And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

John 21:25 (countless in actual number)

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Why is this particular healing significant?

- Also included in Matthew, Mark, and Luke

Overview:

I. Leper's condition

II. Leper's humility

III. Lord's compassion

IV. Lord's cure

V. Application

I. LEPER'S CONDITION

Mark 1:40a

And a leper..

A leper

Leprosy (Hansen's disease)

- Easily communicable by air and touch
- Symptoms: attacks the nervous system, results in physical disfigurement as well as foul odor. Unable to feel pain so one is unable to realize destruction of one's own body/tissue.

Leviticus 13:45-46

“The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, Unclean, unclean.’ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.

- isolated

By Jesus’ time, lepers were considered defiled and cut off from all

- left without hope and God in the world

Implications: Leprosy reflects our spiritual condition apart from Christ (“spiritual lepers”)

- Sin cuts us off from God. Our sin makes us unfit to God. Sin is incurable by any human solution.

Romans 3:10

as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- Why important to understand sin? We otherwise don’t realize or appreciate or properly respond to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

II. LEPER’S HUMILITY

Mark 1:40b

...came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.”

came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him,

Matthew 8:2

And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”

“If you will, you can make me clean.”

Luke 5:12

While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”

- He had faith of Jesus’ person and power.
- He acknowledged God’s sovereign prerogative (he recognized had no right to demand a certain step but humbled himself to Jesus)

III. LORD’S COMPASSION

Mark 1:41

Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him and said to him, “I am willing; be cleansed”

Moved with compassion

- compassion = Greek word (*splagchnizomai*) = moved from deepest part of one’s being

Matthew 9:36 (same word)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Two errors of how we see our sin:

- our sin is not that bad (underestimate)
 - But it was nevertheless so bad that led Jesus to die a horrible death in your place
- Our sin is so bad that God could not love me (overestimate)
 - But the truth is there is no sin that cannot be covered by Jesus blood.

Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him

- Jesus touch
- Jesus chose to reach out and take hold of the leper (alternatively, Jesus could have healed with words alone)
- Previously, leper hadn't been touched since he contracted the disease as would have been isolated as a result

and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed"

- Jesus words (I am willing; be cleansed)

IV. LORD'S CURE

Mark 1:42

Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

Immediately

- The man's leprosy condition was instantly healed.

The leprosy left him and he was cleansed

- The man was healed and clean

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions;

he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

1 Peter

V. APPLICATION

What is your response?

1. My cleansing comes from when I recognize and admit my need. (A leper)
 - How? Be honest about your sins

Matthew 5:3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2. My cleansing comes when I come to Jesus. (*leper came to Jesus*)

- Not merely recognize as a fact but believe in heart and come to Jesus
- 3. My cleansing comes when I bow down before Jesus (*falling on his knees before Him*)
- Make Jesus as your Lord
- 4. My cleansing comes when I trust Jesus to cleanse me. (“If You are willing, You can make me clean”)
- Believe Jesus says He is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do