

## **Preaching and Cleansing a Leper**

**Matthew 8:2-4**

**Mark 1:40-45**

**Luke 5:12-16**

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### **Texts:**

#### **Matthew 8:2-4,**

**2. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”**

**3. Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.**

**4. Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”**

#### **Mark 1:40-45,**

**40. A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”**

**41. Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said, “Be clean!”**

**42. Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.**

**43. Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning:**

**44. “See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.”**

**45. Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.**

## **Luke 5:12-16,**

**12. While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”**

**13. Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.**

**14. Then Jesus ordered him, “Don’t tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.”**

**15. Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.**

**16. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**

### **Commentary:**

I. Leprosy was a dreadful disease and was regarded as a type of sin.

A. Those with leprosy were considered ceremonially unclean.

B. Leprosy like sin was regarded as contagious. Those with the disease were separated from the people.

**1. Leviticus 13:45, 46, “The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp.”**

II. The man “full of leprosy” begged Jesus to heal him.

A. Jesus was widely recognized as a supernatural healer. This man believed Jesus could heal him. “If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.”

B. The leper worshiped Jesus, fell on his face, kneeled down to Jesus.

III. Jesus touched the leper and instantly healed him, having first been moved by compassion.

A. Jesus on various occasions violated the touching provisions of the ceremonial clean – unclean regulations of the law of Moses.

**B. Luke 7:14, Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!”**

C. When Jesus touched unclean things he was not made unclean, but he in this way cleansed what he touched.

D. Jesus wanted to make the leper clean and he wants to make us whole as well.

IV. Jesus told the leper to keep quiet about what had been done for him.

**A. Mark 1:44, 45, “See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them. Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly**

**but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.**

**B. Matthew 9:30, Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.”**

**C. Matthew 12:16, warning them not to tell who he was.**

**D. Matthew 16:20, Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.**

**E. Mark 3:12, But he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone who he was.**

**F. Mark 7:36, Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.**

**G. Why did Jesus forbid some to tell of his miraculous works while other wonders were performed in public causing him to enjoy a multitudinous following?**

**H. John 6:15, Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.**

**I. This man did not obey Jesus but told everyone of his healing.**

**1. He could not keep this wondrous news to himself.**

**2. As a result many came to hear the message Jesus preached and to be healed.**

V. Jesus directed this man now healed of leprosy to perform the rites required in the Mosaic law by:

A. showing himself to the priest for confirmation of his healing.

B. making an appropriate contribution/offering; i.e., two male lambs and one ewe lamb without blemish. Leviticus 14.

C. testifying in this manner to his healing.

## Preaching and Cleansing a Leper

### Questions

1. A man with \_\_\_\_\_ came to Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_, “\_\_\_\_\_, if you are willing you can make me \_\_\_\_\_.”

2. Jesus reached out his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the man. He said, “\_\_\_ am willing. Be \_\_\_\_\_.” \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ left him and he was \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Jesus sent him away with a \_\_\_\_\_, “Don’t tell this to anyone. Show yourself to the \_\_\_\_\_ and offer the \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ commanded for your \_\_\_\_\_.”

4. Instead the healed man went out and began to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Because of this, \_\_\_\_\_ could no longer enter a \_\_\_\_\_ openly but stayed outside in \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Jesus blessed this man wonderfully. The man’s disobedience caused Jesus grief. When and how has our disobedience caused Jesus grief?

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7. Why did this man disobey Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Why do we disobey Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. In spite of Jesus' remaining in lonely places, the \_\_\_\_\_ still came to him from \_\_\_\_\_.

10. While in these lonely places Jesus often \_\_\_\_\_.

11. \_\_\_\_\_ was a \_\_\_\_\_ and was regarded as a type of \_\_\_\_\_.

12. \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_ was regarded as \_\_\_\_\_ and caused the diseased person to be \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.

13. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ him. Jesus touched the ceremonially \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus touches us in all our sins.

14. Are our actions sometimes like this leper's in that he fell to the ground on his face begging Jesus for healing and then, having been blest, disobeyed Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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