
The Healing Of Leprosy

Matthew 8:2-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-15

The **Gospels** record **Christ** healing people of **leprosy** twice during His ministry. The **first**; involved one **leper** and took place while **Jesus** was healing in **Galilee** [**Mark 1:39**], and has three parallel accounts provided by **Matthew, Mark, and Luke**. The **second**; involved **ten lepers** and took place much later in **Samaria** and is recorded only by **Luke**. THESE TWO INCIDENTS REVEAL THE AMAZING POWER OF THE LORD IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF SINFUL MEN!

I. THE LEPER

① **The Disease Of Leprosy:**

Leprosy was a dreaded disease that caused great horror and disgust in people. It was so severe and common in Biblical times that **God** gave **Moses** extensive instructions to deal with it [**Leviticus 13-14**]. **Leprosy** started with a discoloration of a patch of skin and would spread in all directions. Spongy tumor-like swellings would grow on the face and body. **Leprosy** was a rotting of the flesh, causing fingers and toes to decay and even fall off. The **leper's** voice would become very hoarse and raspy, their eyes bloodshot and burning, their noses sunken because of decaying cartilage, their tongues black, swollen, and ulcerated. **Leprosy** was a disfiguring disease that brought about marked deformity, destroying the body. THE LEPER WOULD DIE A SLOW AND PAINFUL DEATH! But perhaps the worst part of this terrible plague, was that during their time of suffering and dire need, the **leper** would be **excluded** from their families and friends, **disbarred** and **prohibited** from worship and all activities of society. They were required to wear certain dress so that they could be identified, and anytime someone would begin to approach them they must cry out "**Unclean, Unclean**" THEY WERE LITERALLY OUTCASTS WITH NO ONE TO HELP AS THEY WAITED FOR SURE DEATH! **Leper's** without a doubt, **were men most miserable!**

② **The Condition Of This Particular Leper:**

Matthew and **Mark** refer to the man as "**a leper**" (**Matthew 8:2; Mark 1:40**), **Luke** the physician, gives a more detailed description concerning the man's condition saying; "**behold a man full of leprosy**" (**Luke 5:12**). The implication being that **he was in the advanced stage of the disease, about to die!** He was not only "**a leper**" but he was "**full of leprosy**" **Luke** draws attention to this fact saying; "**behold a man full of leprosy**" THERE WAS NO CURE EXCEPT BY THE DIRECT INTERVENTION OF GOD! THIS MAN WAS IN NEED OF A MIRACLE!

II. THE RECORD OF THIS LEPER'S HEALING

① *The Approach Of The Leper To Christ:*

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record that this **leper** came to **Christ**. This man, who was “*full of leprosy*” no doubt had suffered immensely, and had endured being an outcast for several years came to **Jesus!** The **leper** in coming to **Christ** exhibits some characteristics that provide some insight into how **Christ** should be approached:

○ *He Approached Christ In A Spirit Of Hope:*

Luke records that he saw **Jesus**; “*who seeing Jesus*” (**Luke 5:12**). Being “*full of leprosy*” his situation appeared more and more **hopeless** and **impossible**, with each passing day! His case was **desperate**, but “*seeing Jesus*” hope was aroused within him!

○ *He Approached Christ Earnestly:*

When he saw **Jesus**, he determined to reach Him, despite the obstacle of the crowd, and the spectacle of his horrible disease. For this **leper** to come to **Christ**, no doubt was a great challenge, with many hindrances to be overcome! **BUT DESPERATE FOR A CURE HE CAME!**

○ *He Approached Christ With Reverence And Humility:*

Matthew records that the **leper** “*worshipped him*” (**Matthew 8:2**). **Mark** records that he came “*kneeling down to Him*” (**Mark 1:40**), and **Luke** records that he “*fell on his face*” (**Luke 5:12**).

○ *He Approached Christ With Passion:*

Mark records “*And there came a leper to Him, beseeching him*” (**Mark 1:40**), and **Luke** records “*who seeing Jesus fell on His face, and besought him*” (**Luke 5:12**). He **pleaded** and **begged** for a cure at the hands of **Christ!** His pleas no doubt were **passionate** and **fervent!** **HE SO DESPERATELY WANTED A CURE!**

○ *He Approached Christ With Submissiveness To The Will Of Christ:*

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record that the **leper** came saying “*if thou wilt*” (**Matthew 8:2; Mark 1:40; Luke 5:12**). He did not come demanding healing, as though it was owed him, but **HE CAME SUBMITTING TO THE WILL OF CHRIST!**

○ *He Approached Christ With Trust And Confidence In Christ's Ability:*

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record the **leper** saying to **Christ** “*thou canst make me clean*” (**Matthew 8:2; Mark 1:40; Luke 5:12**). In spite of the advanced stage of his **leprosy**, THIS MAN HAD FULL CONFIDENCE AND ASSURANCE IN THE ABILITY OF CHRIST!

② **What Jesus Did On Behalf Of This Leper:**

Mark records that “*Jesus moved with compassion*” (**Mark 1:41**). **Jesus** felt **concern**, **pity** and **sympathy** toward this **leper**, and He acted in **mercy** and **kindness** toward him. **Matthew, Mark, and Luke** all record that **Jesus** reached forth and **touched** this **leper**, (and He was not defiled by doing so), and **spoke**; “*I will be thou clean*” (**Matthew 8:3; Mark 1:41; Luke 5:13**). The result of the **touch** and spoken **word** of **Jesus** was **immediate** and **thorough** healing (**Matthew 8:3; Mark 1:42; Luke 5:13**). The healing was followed by instruction to the **leper** (**Matthew 8:4; Mark 1:43-44; Luke 5:14**).

Leprosy throughout the **Word of God** is a type of the dreadful plague of **sin**, and the miraculous healing brought about by the **power** of **Christ**, was a manifestation of His amazing **grace** and **mercy**, manifesting that HE ALONE CAN HEAL THE DREAD CURSE OF SIN, AND THAT HE RECEIVES THE OUTCASTS!
