

**Bible Study #6**

**Mark 1:40-45**

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A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. “If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,” he said.

Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!” Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed. Then Jesus sent him on his way with a stern warning: “Don’t tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.”

But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn’t publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him.

**Teaching Points:**

1. Leprosy is a picture of sin.
2. Cleansing of leprosy is a picture of salvation.

**Practical Applications:**

1. Have you felt the touch of God?
2. Would you touch a leper?

**Questions From The Text:**

1. Why did the leper say, "You can make me clean," instead of "You can make me whole?"

Under Jewish law, if you had leprosy, you were considered not just diseased, but unclean. Lepers had to be isolated from other people, even crying a warning for them to stay away. They cried, "Unclean! Unclean!" (Leviticus 13:44-46).

2. What does the parallel account in Luke 5:12 tell us about this leper?

That he was full of leprosy.

3. What did the leper say to Jesus? What does this say about the leper?

"If You are willing, You can make me clean." He had faith, believing that Jesus could heal him.

4. How did Jesus respond?

He reached out and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed."

5. Why did Jesus tell the man not to tell others? Did the healed leper obey this command?

Because He didn't want people coming to Him for His miracles, but because of faith in Him, the Messiah. No, the leper did not obey. His disobedience hindered the work of the Lord, for Jesus could no longer openly enter into the city.

6. Discuss the parallels between the stages of leprosy and the stages of sin.

In the early stages, both can be covered up and masked. Also, in the early stages, the pain can be felt, but as the disease progresses, the body becomes desensitized. Both continue to eat away at the person. The leprosy eats away, disfiguring the body; the sin eats away, hurting the body, soul and spirit. With leprosy, there was no cure, and it leads to death. Sin, too, leads to death.

7. Was the healing of the leper partial or complete? Immediate or delayed? What does this tell us about the touch of the Lord today?

See Mark 1:41-42 and Psalm 103:12. For us today? Salvation is immediate and complete.

**Further Discussion:**

1. Consider the leper who hindered the Lord's ministry because of his disobedience. Are you obeying all that the Lord tells you to do?
2. Are there areas of legalism in your life that rob you of the joy of freedom in Christ? If so, do something about them.

**Memorize:**

"A leper came to Jesus, imploring Him, saying, 'If you are willing, You can make me clean.' Then Jesus, moved with compassion...touched him, and said, 'I am willing; be cleansed.'" (Mark 1:40-41)