

Luk 5:12-39

The Leper Comes to Jesus

Luk 5:12-13 NIV

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."

Covered with Leprosy

Physical Effects ... Emotional Effects - banished, untouchables, isolated

A Hopeless Existence - no record of healing except Moses, Miriam and Naaman

- Leviticus 13:45-46 ESV "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.' (46) 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.

How the Leper Approached Jesus

HE CAME - He was FULL of leprosy - (Matt 8:2 and Mark 1:40)

- He should have remained at a distance crying UNCLEAN - but he CAME to the Lord and asked to be made CLEAN
- But He came because he believed that **Jesus could change the situation**
- **Something he heard** sparked a hope that drove him to come and ask

APPLICATION: We Come Because of Hope

- Heb 11:6 NIV And without faith it is impossible to please God, because ***anyone who comes to him*** must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

What Hinders Us from Coming?

- Fear of rejection?
- What others think?
- The impossibility of the situation?
- That people may throw stones at you?
- Stubbornness?
- Self-sufficiency?
- When is the last time you remember just coming to Jesus?

HE WORSHIPPED - He FELL on his face BEFORE he was healed

- Luke 5:12 - he fell with his **face to the ground**
- Matt 8:2 - a leper and **worshipped him**
- Mark 1:40 - there came a leper to him, **beseeching him, and kneeling down to him**

APPLICATION: Can I worship Him in spite of my current trial?

Our worship is often situational. We need to worship Him for who He is

- Job 1:20 NIV At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship
- Psa 34:1 KJV ... I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

HE ASKED - He BEGGED him - this was a desperate cry

- **to ask with the sense of an urgent need**
- Luk 9:38-40 KJV And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, *Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son*: for he is mine only child. 39 And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him. 40 And I ***besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not.***

APPLICATION: Am I willing to humble myself and simply ask?

You have not because you ask not - have we become desperate enough?

- Jas 4:2 KJV ...ye have not, **because ye ask not.**
- Eph 3:20 KJV Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly **above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us,

TRUST & SURRENDER - “Lord if you WILL - I know you CAN”

Some would say that to say words like “if it is your will” is lack of faith. The Leper is simply acknowledging that Jesus has the right to decide whether or not to grant the request. It was NOT if you CAN - it was IF YOU WILL. To acknowledge that God has the right to grant or refuse a request is not lack of faith... it is the ultimate act of dependence on God's compassion and takes great trust and commitment for a desperate person.

Is it Okay to Pray, "If it Be Your Will, Lord?"

- Mat 6:10 NIV your kingdom come, YOUR WILL be done, on earth as it is in heaven
- **Matthew 26:39** He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want **your will** to be done, not mine."
- Jas 4:13-15 NIV Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "**If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.**"

In cases where we are uncertain about the will of God we can pray in the Spirit

- Romans 8:26-27 ESV Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (27) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, ***because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.***

Or we can pray to know his will BEFORE praying - maybe what Peter was doing

- Act 9:40 ESV But ***Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed;*** and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

The Response of Jesus

Luk 5:13

Jesus **reached out his hand and touched the man.** "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And **immediately** the leprosy left him. [SURPRISE]

He Touched Him

- This man was not touched by another non-leprous human in a long time
- **Jesus sees value in this person**
- Jesus did not run away as others
- Jesus did not hide from fear as others
- Jesus was not disgusted as others might have been
- Jesus was not afraid to touch him
- He is no longer an outcast. He was accepted. He was loved

He was moved with compassion

A Parallel passage says “He was moved with compassion”

Mar 1:41 KJV And Jesus, **moved with compassion**, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

- Mat 14:14 KJV And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he **healed their sick**.
- Mat 15:32 KJV Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, **I have compassion** on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, **and have nothing to eat**: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.
- Mat 20:34 KJV So **Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes**: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.
- Luk 7:12-13 KJV Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. 13 **And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her**, and said unto her, Weep not.
- Luk 15:20 KJV And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, **and had compassion**, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.
- Exo 34:5-6 NIV Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,
- Psa 145:8-9 NIV The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. 9 The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.
- Lam 3:22-25 NIV Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." 25 The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;

We have a God who is touched by our weakness - WE CAN COME TO HIM

Heb 4:15-16 NIV For we do not have a high priest who is unable to ***empathize with our weaknesses***, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin. 16 ***Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence***, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Immediately the leprosy left him

- If you touched a leper you were unclean - but When Jesus touched a leper he was IMMEDIATELY clean

Application

- There are no untouchables with Jesus
- No matter how “contaminated” we are He can heal us
- **Power and Love Belong to GOD**
 - Psa 62:11-12 NIV One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: "Power belongs to you, God, 12 and with you, Lord, is unfailing love"; and, "You reward everyone according to what they have done."

Luk 5:14

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.**"

The Miracles of Messiah

The religious leaders of the day had developed a list of 4 signs which would accompany the coming of the Messiah. One of them was the healing of those with leprosy. Prior to this event, the Bible only records three people who had been cleansed of leprosy, and one of them wasn't even Jewish (Moses, Miriam, and Naaman).

- 1) The healing of the leper
- 2) To cast out a demon that caused a man to become both blind and mute
- 3) The restoration of sight to a man born blind
- 4) The raising of the dead after 4 days

Luk 5:15-16

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