

Gospel of Matthew “Cleansed”
Matthew 8:1-4
October, 16, 2022

Matthew 8:1-4

When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. 2 And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” 3 And Jesus[b] stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

What can we know about the leper’s condition?
How can we understand the leper’s request?
How is Jesus’ response, his response to us?

Leprosy affected not only your physical existence but your communal one.

Every day was a funeral.

We feel unclean because of what we’ve done but we can feel shame because of what someone has done to us.

“Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Jesus’ power to cleanse is greater than our power too dirty.

Jesus will take our place.

Mark 1:45

45 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.

“There is always more that’s right in Jesus than there is what’s wrong in us.”

Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Consider the leper’s condition. How would shame and isolation affect the leper’s life? What happens in our lives when we experience shame and isolation?
- Have you ever experienced something in which you believed that things were too broken and there was too much hurt? How did you get through that situation?
- How does the leper’s request give us a model of faith and petition?
- How are the love and holiness of Jesus shown as stronger than the leper’s disease? Why is it so significant?
- Is there any area of your life you are hoping the Lord might touch?

- Jesus moves from preaching to ministering/touching. Does this reveal something important for the church? Who does God want you to “touch”? Are there people that you are reluctant to “touch?”