

"I Will, Be Clean!"

Joseph Carty / General

Friend of Jesus / Crowd at a Leper's Healing; Leprosy; Health and Healing; Spiritual Healing / Matthew 8:1-4

Jesus constantly healed the most degraded cases. What that means is that I am not too broken to be healed.

Luke 5:12 ESV

While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."

What Is Leprosy?

- Skin Disease
 - color
 - nerve damage
 - injure self
 - open wounds
 - smell

- Incurable
- Contagious

- Removed from Society
 - King
 - Family
 - leper camps

- Greatly Feared
- Viewed as
 - **Consequence of Sin**

- Had to say
 - “unclean”
 - “unclean”

The Realization

- This leper
 - Heard of Jesus
- Glimmer of hope.
- But remembers
 - leprosy = punishment
 - Jesus will reject me...

The Struggle

- Jesus is in
 - one of the cities.
 - Lepers not allowed
- Large group
 - Lepers not allowed
- Hear Jesus

- Lepers not allowed
- Sees Jesus Healing
 - Stand back
 - watching
 - Lepers not allowed
- Something Gives Hope
 - decides to go.

The Attempt

- Remember,
 - large crowds
 - not allowed.
- He moves toward crowd
- People see him.

- year of leprosy
- spread everywhere
- damaged skin
- rotting wounds

- People scream
 - get back
 - run away.

- Others see
 - going to Jesus
 - try to stop him.
 - Unable.

- Only sees Jesus.
 - crowd parts
 - like red sea.

- Falls at feet

- Words:

“Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”

Jesus Response

- Everyone
 - Runs
 - screams
 - mad faces
 - terror
- Jesus
 - calm
 - waits
 - silent
 - smiles
- What he does next....

- unbelievable.

[Matthew 8:3](#) (ESV)

And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him...

- Cannot touch them.
- They are unclean
 - those who touch
 - become unclean!
- Jesus was not
 - infected by leper...
- Why touch Him???
- His words healed him.
 - Why not just say.
 - Don't touch!!!!

- It had been years
 - since this man
 - hug family
 - shake a hand
 - accidental bump shoulder
- Jesus gave him
 - humanity.
- Treated like
 - normal person.
 - human being
 - valued.
- He could have
 - spoken only
- But Jesus teaching
 - love for people

- nature of Christ.

- Jesus is not infected by
 - me or
 - you.

- Some think.
 - I can't come to God.
 - I'm not worthy.
 - I'm not good enough.
 - He is too holy.
 - Don't want to infect Him.

- Truly
 - you cannot.
 - He is immune!

- Then Jesus says the words,
 - the words that

- changed his life:

[Matthew 8:3](#) (ESV)

“I will; be clean.”

- I Will...
 - profound.
- Jesus wants to.
 - desire to
 - longs
 - craves
 - heal.
- Others thought
 - his sin
 - his problems
 - his choices
 - brought this.

- More importantly:
 - he deserved it.

- They did not “will”
 - to see him healed...

- This meant
 - not too bad.
 - not too ugly.
 - not too smelly.
 - not too sinful.
 - not too broken.

- You and I
 - not too messed up.
 - to come to Jesus!!!

- “I Will”

- “I want.”
- “I want you.”

The Change

- Jesus didn’t stop there
 - He said,

[Matthew 8:3](#) (ESV)

“I will; be clean.”

- Others may
 - care
 - want what is best
 - love you.
- But others often
 - can’t heal you.

- Only the words of Christ
 - transform the soul!

[Matthew 8:3](#) (ESV)

“I will; be clean.”

- Immediately,
 - skin changes
 - wounds healed
 - bacteria gone
 - smell gone.
- Life Changed,
 - family back
 - job back
 - society back
 - health back
 - church back

- Man's life changes...
 - hopelessness ->
 - joy and future.
 - sadness ->
 - joy
 - Fear ->
 - peace

The Charge

- Jesus next words:

Mark 1:43-44 ESV

And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

- Very stern command.

- Don't go
 - home
 - wife
 - kids
 - mom
 - work
 - celebrate
 - party

- Go
 - priest
 - inspected
 - proclaimed clean

- Why?
 - many priests
 - prejudiced against Jesus.

1. Before story
 - reaches them.

2. Reach the Priests.

3. Hinder Jesus Work
 - too many lepers

The Result

- Goes to Priest
 - proclaimed clean

- Gets life back.
 - family
 - friends.

- People ask...
 - **How?**

- Jesus said,
 - tell no body.
- He thought,
 - Jesus is humble.
- Told everyone

Mark 1:45 ESV

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.

The Application

- Nobody is too sinful
 - to come to Christ.
- Christ turns away none
 - who sincerely come.

The Appeal

- Come to Christ
- Be Healed