

JESUS HEALS A MAN OF LEPROSY

MARK 1:40-45



Parents Notes

Sunday 15th September, 2019

We are learning today: Jesus is compassionate and makes the unclean, clean



Summary

Having left to find a new place to teach and escape the crowds and constant demands to heal people (Mark 1:32-33; 37), a man came to Jesus with humility, with faith in Jesus' power and submitting to Jesus' will and begged him on his knees "if you are willing make me clean" (v40). Rather than be irritated, Jesus has compassion (v41) and replied "I am willing" and touched him and he was healed instantly.

Leviticus 13 and 14 tells us how society treated those with skin diseases. This man would have been an outcast and separated from the rest of society. No one would be able to touch him as he would have been considered unclean and untouchable. Jesus subverts this by touching the man to heal him. He could have healed with words alone but this touch also demonstrates his compassion – this man wouldn't have been touched for years – imagine the impact his touch would have. Rather than Jesus becoming unclean, his touch makes the man clean – such is the power of Jesus.

Jesus tells the man to go and see the priest as the OT law commanded so he could be declared clean and reintegrated into society. However he then disobeys Jesus and first goes and tells everyone, meaning Jesus is once again bombarded with many who are simply seeking physical healing.

Amazingly Jesus takes our unclean hearts and makes them clean. He had compassion on undeserving outcasts like us and makes us right with God and brings us into God's family. As Christians, are we people of compassion who reach the broken, the outcasts and the hurting with the good news of Jesus? There is no one who is out of Jesus' reach, no matter how unclean our lives might be. Can we reach the unpopular, the homeless, the sick, the elderly, those with disabilities or from ethnic minorities with the good news about Jesus and show his love in action through our loving deeds?

Questions for home

How has Jesus shown compassion to us and made us clean? Write out sins on something wipeable and wash them away.

Create a prayer wall by sticking paper on a wall, door or board for those who are needy. What might it be like to be alone or sick?

As a family, visit an elderly relative or church member, help the homeless or poor and think how you can share Jesus with them.

Find out more about Leprosy - www.leprosymission.org.uk

Memory verse

'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.' (Mark 2:17)

