

## ***Jesus: Our Cleansing Savior***

*Matthew 8:1-4*

Having spoken the words of life in the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus now demonstrates His power by the performance of signs and miracles (Matt. 8-9 records ten of Jesus' miracles). Jesus performed these miracles to show His concern in meeting our physical needs, to attest to His claims that He is indeed, the Christ, and to show His concern for the salvation of the people. The story of the leper in Matt 8:1-4 shows that the cleansing power of Jesus is not only able to cleanse leprosy, but also over sin. It teaches us that Jesus cleanses every sinner who recognizes his need of healing and cleansing and begs Jesus for it.

Leprosy in the Bible is a dreaded disease that is a picture of sin. It was thought to be highly contagious and incurable. Mosaic Law prescribed that the person be cut off from society, including his family (Lev. 13:45).

**1. *Sinners, like the leper must \_\_\_\_\_ their desperate situation***

This leper was looking for Jesus and when he saw Jesus, he came to Him (v.2). Note the characteristics of this leper: he recognized his desperate need; he came to Jesus with reverence and in worship; he came in humility and he came in faith acknowledging that only Jesus has the power to heal him. Just as lepers were ceremonially defiled and cut off from public worship, sinners are corrupted by sin and totally defiled in the sight of the Holy God and separated from Him (Gen. 6:5, Jer. 17:9, Mark 7:21-23, Eph. 2:2). And if it is not cleansed by Jesus Christ, the sinner faces physical death and eternal separation from God (Rev. 20:14-15; cf. James 1:15).

**2. *Sinners, like the leper must \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus for their cleansing***

This leprous man had nothing to lose. So he boldly came near to Jesus and cried out in faith. We should come in faith believing that God is able and willing to cleanse us (John 6:37). We should come urgently, begging and pleading for His mercy (Matt. 5:3-6).

**3. *Sinners, like the leper receives the complete cleansing and forgiveness of Jesus when they \_\_\_\_\_ His word***

Jesus felt compassion upon the leper, stretched out His hand and touched him (Mark 1:41, Luke 5:13). Jesus touched this leper not just out of concern but He was showing those around Him of the reason why He came. Jesus, the Son of God became flesh and became sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21). When He touched the leper rather than being defiled, Jesus imparted complete, instant cleansing to this man.

Jesus ordered this cleansed leper to tell no one but go and show himself to the priest (Lev. 14). But the man could not contain the good news and he went out and began to proclaim it freely and spread the news (Mark 1:45).

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Here is a clear illustration of salvation. The leper had the worst human condition, wretched, disfiguring, incurable, dominating, isolating, deadly. If he had not admitted that he was a leper, he couldn't have been cured of His leprosy. We must admit that we are spiritual lepers. We need the forgiveness of sins, we're sinners. We deserve judgment.

Have you humbled yourself before Christ like this leper? Have you admitted that you don't deserve anything, except punishment from Him, and yet you trust in Him to save you from your sins? If that's where you are this day then rejoice in God's grace.