

“He Touched Me”

Mark 1:39-45

C. I. T.—Jesus brought great joy to a leper by allowing him to be healed.

C. I. S.—Jesus will bring great joy to your life by allowing you to approach him to be healed.

Purpose—I want to encourage people to come to Christ.

Introduction—Thanksgiving—Jesus touched my life

I. **Surprising Approach**—vs. 39-40

a. The Leper was responding to the itinerant preaching ministry of Jesus.

b. Leper

i. Used to describe numerous skin diseases

ii. Symbolized sin, considered a result of sin

iii. **Leviticus 13:45-46**

c. This leper approached Jesus

i. He knew that Jesus could heal him but was questioning if Jesus would heal him.

ii. This leper placed genuine faith in Christ.

d. Jesus talked with him

i. The rabbis would throw rocks and shout.

ii. They would avoid at all costs.

e. Illus.—Shower to Clean Up

f. Application

i. **Matthew 11:28**

ii. Anyone can come to Jesus by faith.

iii. Jesus wants all to come to him.

iv. He wants you, warts and all to come to him.

g. Takeaway: ***If that leper can come to Jesus, so can I.***

II. **Shocking Answer**—vs. 41-42

a. Jesus was angry

i. Different words in translations—intended to help understand.

ii. He was angry, which led to compassion, thus telling us that his anger was aimed toward the situation of the leper, not the leper himself.

iii. Jesus was moved.

b. Jesus healed the leper.

i. He reached out and touched him.

1. It shows the great love and compassion of Jesus to touch this untouchable.

2. The question was, was Jesus willing; he was.

ii. He spoke to the Leper

1. Declared that it was His will.

2. Imperative—Be clean

c. Jesus was able to heal this leper.

d. Illus.—Father Damien

e. Application

i. **1 Timothy 2: 3-4; Luke 19:10**

ii. Jesus doesn't give advice from afar; he comes into your life personally.

iii. He will touch you and heal you of your sinfulness.

f. Takeaway: ***If that leper could be cleansed by Jesus, so can I.***

III. **Shouting Alleluia**—vs. 43-45

a. Jesus commanded him not to speak of him

i. With a harsh word, he cast him out

ii. String of commands—tell no one, depart, show, offer

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- iii. It wasn't so much that he wanted him to stay quiet, but that he wanted him to stay focused.
- b. Showing oneself to the priests.
 - i. The priest would examine the skin disease according to the Bible.
 - ii. Once determined to be cleansed, the priest would make a declaration which would make the leper ceremonially clean and would restore him to the community.
 - iii. This served as a testimony to the priests and the community that God did something.
 1. Only three where it was cleansed, Moses' hand, Marian, and Naaman
 2. **2 Kings 5:6-7**
 - iv. This would have condemned the Spiritual institutions of that day, because they did not accept Jesus.
- c. The Leper could not overcome his joy with obedience.
 - i. Began to preach, sharing his experience
 - ii. The crowds grew even more and more.
- d. Illus.—Word of mouth from satisfied customers
- e. Application
 - i. Our lives should overflow with joy because Jesus touched us.
 - ii. We cannot help but tell others about what He has done.
 - iii. When we are asked about what we are thankful for, how can this not be #1?
- f. Takeaway: ***If that leper can share Jesus, so can I.***

Conclusion

- He Touched Me
- If you have experienced the saving grace of Jesus, you should rejoice, be thankful, and share it with others.
- Don't you want others to experience that as well?
- If you haven't, I want you to experience it today.
- You can, if you would simply admit that you need Jesus and place your faith in Him.

Leviticus 13:45 "The person who has a case of serious skin disease is to have his clothes torn and his hair hanging loose, and he must cover his mouth and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' ⁴⁶ He will remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean. He must live alone in a place outside the camp.

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Father Damian

- Statue outside of the Hawaii Capital Building of Father Damian
- Catholic Missionary to the Hawaiian Islands; In particular, the island of Molokai, a leper colony—1873-1889
- He died from leprosy.
- He went to serve them, took on their illness, and died because of it.
- Jesus did that and rose again.

1 Timothy 2:3 This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

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Mark 1:39-45

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

2 Kings 5:6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel, and it read: When this letter comes to you, note that I have sent you my servant Naaman for you to cure him of his skin disease. ⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and asked, "Am I God, killing and giving life that this man expects me to cure a man of his skin disease? Recognize that he is only picking a fight with me."