

“I Will. Be Clean.”

Mark 1:40-45

THE LEPER'S REQUEST. v.40

1. The identity of the leper is unknown to us.

- No name. No hometown/location given. No family. No tribe of Israel. → *He could be anyone.*

2. The leper was unclean according to Levitical law. Ref. Lev.13:44-46

- Leviticus 13:44: ...he is a leprous man, he is unclean. The priest must pronounce him unclean.
- Everyone lived in fear of this disease—it was attributed to sin. Ref. 2 Kings 15:5; Numbers 12:1-16
- In the Talmud, leprosy was called ‘the father of uncleanness.’

3. The leper's request. “If you will, you can make me clean.”

- 2 words: you can (‘I know you have the power’); you will (‘Do you choose to do it?’)

THE SAVIOR'S RESPONSE. v.41-42

1. Jesus FELT, Jesus TOUCHED, and Jesus SPOKE to the leper. v.41

- Jesus was “moved with pity.” ‘compassion’
- Jesus intentionally touched the leper. “he stretched out his hand and touched him”
- Jesus spoke: “I will; be clean.”

2. The man was healed and made clean. v.42

- The power of Jesus' word.
- “I will” ‘I am willing’ But also, I have the power to will this into reality.

THE SAVIOR'S REQUEST. v.43-44

- Jesus sternly warned him... v.43

1. Say nothing to anyone.

2. Fulfill the Mosaic law. Be examined. If genuinely healed, offer a sacrifice & priest declares you CLEAN.

THE LEPER'S RESPONSE. v.45

- But he went out and began to talk freely about it.
- The result? Jesus could no longer openly enter a town... but was out in desolate places.

→ Unintended consequences...

Why this story of the leper's response?

- Jesus heals people who don't deserve it. Jesus forgives people who don't deserve it.
- End of v.44... “as a proof against them” → Beginning of conflicts with scribes and Pharisees in Mark.
- To recognize Jesus' mission: to be rejected by men, crucified, and resurrected.
- For us to be united to Jesus and bear the reproach he endured.

→ Hebrews 13:12-14: So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.