

WARM-UP

- Who among your friends did you think you would not get along with when you first met this person? How did your perspective change or stay the same?
- If someone in your family is sick, what do you normally do to take care of them?
- What is an advocacy you support? Why do you believe in this cause?

WORD ¹²*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."*
¹³*And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. **LUKE 5:12-13***

(Read also **LUKE 5:14-16.**)

Sickness is one of the many challenges every person faces. The man in this passage had leprosy, a disease that was impossible to heal from. At the time, lepers were outcasts in society. People did not associate with them, nor did they come close to them, because lepers were considered unclean. In this passage, let's take a look at how Jesus responded when a leper approached Him and asked for healing.

1 | Jesus responded to the leper compassionately.

¹²While 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."¹³And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. LUKE 5:12-13

This testimony is unlike the other stories of Jesus' healing power. Jesus did not heal the leper from a distance, but He stretched out His hand, touched him, and declared healing. Jesus had the power to heal the leper. But more than that, He showed compassion by coming close to the leper and touching him despite his uncleanness and disease. How has God shown His love and compassion to you during a difficult season in your life?

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2 | Jesus healed the leper physically.

¹²While 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."¹³And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. LUKE 5:12-13

Leprosy is a disease known to cause several complications in the body, including nerve damage and muscle weakness. In this story, it seemed impossible to heal. However, in this passage, we see Jesus' authority over diseases that are difficult to deal with and seemingly incurable. We also see His authority to cleanse what is unclean. By the power of Jesus' word, leprosy left the man. What does the story of the healed leper tell us about Jesus' authority over sickness?

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3 | Jesus restored the leper socially.

And he charged him to tell no one, but “go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” **LUKE 5:14**

Signs of leprosy were apparent on the body, making it easy for people to identify and distance themselves from lepers. Hence, lepers were socially isolated, physically decaying, and probably emotionally struggling, too. The law of Moses required them to wear torn clothes, stay outside the city, and cry out that they were unclean whenever someone passed them (Leviticus 13:45–46). After healing the man, Jesus told him to go and show himself to the priest—as proof that he was now clean. Because of Jesus’ miraculous healing, the leper gained access to the temple, a place he was banned from due to his illness. As Jesus cleansed the man of his leprosy, He restored his place in society as well. What does this tell us about the way Jesus heals?

In the Old Testament, there was a practice of cleansing one’s body before entering the presence of God. The physical healing Jesus did led to spiritual healing as well. While people did several rituals to be clean, Jesus is the only source of true cleansing. This is what Jesus did for the leper in the story, and He is doing the same for us today. He brings salvation and wholeness even to those considered outcasts in society, giving us access to God and drawing us closer to Him.

APPLICATION

- Do you believe in God's healing power and authority over all kinds of illnesses? What does this passage teach you about having faith in God as our healer?
- Repent and ask God's forgiveness for the times you have limited His capacity and authority over impossible situations.
- Think of someone who is in need of healing. Ask God for opportunities to pray for and minister to him or her this week.

PRAYER

- Pray for God to build your faith in Him and to continue to trust Him as a miracle-working God.
- By His word, Jesus healed the leper completely. Pray that like the leper, you would have faith in God's power and authority over difficult circumstances.
- Pray that as a church, we would encourage those who are in need of healing and support in their sickness.



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