

## **LUKE 5:12 -- LORD, IF YOU ARE WILLING, YOU CAN MAKE ME CLEAN!**

**4/2/16 Sat Morn Prayer**

**Luke 5:12-16** And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, **"Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."** [13] Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, **"I am willing; be cleansed."** **Immediately the leprosy left him.** [14] And He charged him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded." [15] However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. [16] So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Mat 8:2 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." [3] Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. [4] And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Mar 1:40 Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." [41] Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." [42] As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed. [43] And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once, [44] and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

**Luke 5:12** And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

- A terrible, dreadful disease, leprosy is a picture of sin, for like sin, leprosy begins below the surface and then begins to spread and destroy. Like sin, leprosy is contagious, affecting not only the one who commits the sin, but those around him. So desperately did this man plagued with leprosy want to be changed that when he heard Jesus was coming into the area, he broke the rules forbidding lepers from entering any area where uncontaminated people were in order to meet Jesus. The same is true for you and me. When we feel as though there is something eating at us, causing us to lose our sensitivity, the key is simply to go to Jesus. "Today is the day of salvation," declared Paul. "Now is the time" (see **2 Corinthians 6:2**). And the leper knew this.
- Full of leprosy – **Lev. 13:13** "then the priest shall consider; and indeed if the leprosy has covered all his body, he shall pronounce him clean who has the sore. It has all turned white. He is clean." The spiritual meaning of this is, that **when a man sees himself to be a sinful creature, all over covered with sin, and no part free, and disclaims all righteousness of his own to justify him before God, but wholly trusts to, and depends upon the grace of God for salvation, and the righteousness of Christ for his acceptance with God; he becomes clean through the grace of God and the blood and righteousness of Christ.**

**Luke 5:13** Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, **"I am willing; be cleansed."** **Immediately the leprosy left him.**

- Jesus did not say, "Go to a seminar on overcoming leprosy." He said, "You need to be clean. You want to be clean. Therefore you will be clean right now." Maybe that's a word for some who are feeling tainted, polluted, affected by some habit, some sin, something that has a grasp on you. At the moment you say from your heart, "I want to be clean," the Lord will say, "Be thou clean." Jesus not only spoke a word, but He touched this one who perhaps had not been touched in years due to his disease. So, too, the Lord doesn't hold His nose and look away from us in disgust. Others might be put off by your sin or irritated with your flaws, but not Jesus. He embraces us.
- Jesus touched the untouchable. His hand went out to the man from whom everyone else would have shrunk away. Two things emerge. First, when we despise ourselves, when our hearts are filled with bitter shame, let us remember, that, in spite of all, Christ's hand is still stretched out. Mark Rutherford wished to add a new beatitude, "Blessed are those who heal us of our self-despising." That is what Jesus did and does. Second, it is of the very essence of Christianity to touch the untouchable, to love the unlovable, to forgive the unforgivable. Jesus did--and so must we.

***Luke 5:14 And He charged him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded."***

***[15] However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities.***

- Likewise, in our lives and ministries, the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. And the main thing is Jesus. "I came to you preaching nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified," Paul declared (see ***1 Corinthians 2:2***). Make Jesus the center of your ministry, and you'll be in harmony with what Paul did.

***Luke 5:16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.***

- According to ***1 Corinthians 12:9***, there are gifts of healing. This means that at a given time, the Lord releases certain gifts to give out to people who are hurting according to His sovereign will, according to His perfect plan. But I believe it is a misunderstanding for someone to say they have the gift of healing because there might be three gifts of healings or eight gifts to be distributed at that meeting or during that time. Why aren't we seeing more times when the power of the Lord to heal is present? Perhaps it's because we haven't followed the model of verse 16, where we read that Jesus was in the place of prayer. Prayer preceded power. There is an intricate connection between the two.

#### **SUMMARY:**

- **One day the Lord Jesus Christ came by. The leper, who was full of leprosy, declared, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." The King of kings replied, "I am willing, be cleansed."**
- **Do you? Do I see ourselves full of leprosy (sin), with no good in us and totally dependent on His grace?**
- **Notice *how* the Lord healed him. He put forth His hand and touched this man afflicted with leprosy. How likely are you to "be moved with compassion and touch the untouchable"?**
- **This poor man had not felt anyone's touch for years. Can you imagine what it must have meant to him to have the touch of Christ's hand upon him?**
- **Has the Lord Jesus touched your life? There are so many lives that need to be touched.**
- **If you are His, and you are fishing at His command, I am confident that you can reach someone for the Lord.**
- **You need to reach out your hand and touch some soul whom only you can touch for Him today.**

#### **He Touched Me – William Gaither - Hymn #278**

*Shackled by a heavy burden, 'Neath a load of guilt and shame.  
Then the hand of Jesus touched me, And now I am no longer the same.*

*He touched me, Oh He touched me, And oh the joy that floods my soul!  
Something happened and now I know, He touched me and made me whole.*

*Since I met this blessed Savior, Since He cleansed and made me whole,  
I will never cease to praise Him, I'll shout it while eternity rolls.*

*He touched me, Oh He touched me, And oh the joy that floods my soul!  
Something happened and now I know He touched me and made me whole.*

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