

Luke 5:12-16

¹² While He was in one of the cities, behold, *there was* a man covered with leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” ¹³ And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” And immediately the leprosy left him. ¹⁴ And He ordered him to tell no one, “But go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, just as Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” ¹⁵ But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear *Him* and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus Himself would *often* slip away to the wilderness and pray.

1. Leper recognizes the identity and power of Jesus. (verse 12)

- a. The condition of the Leper was _____.
 - i. The man was covered with leprosy.
 1. The Greek literally means to be filled up completely.
- b. The Leper is _____ before Christ.
 - i. He falls down on his face → a sign of humility and vulnerability.

1. Psalm 51:16-17

- c. The Leper _____ Christ.
 - i. The word in the Greek means to beg or pray.
- d. The Leper calls Christ _____.
 - i. The use of this title reveals the _____ heart of the leper.
- e. The Leper believes Jesus is _____.
 - i. The issue is not the ability of Jesus but the _____ of Jesus.
 1. Faith is not just believing God can but that He also will.

2. Jesus responds with amazing _____ and _____.

- a. He does not attack the Leper’s _____.
 - i. Jesus speaks to him with understanding and reassurance.
- b. He reaches out and _____ him.
 - i. No one touched a leper.
 1. This would have been astounding to the leper and everyone else.
 - ii. This man is considered the lowest and most abhorred of society.
- c. Jesus removes the leprosy from the man.
 - i. Just like other diseases and infirmities, the miracle is immediate.

3. Leprosy laws in the OT (See Leprosy in Leviticus Handout)

- a. Leprosy was a _____ disease in Jesus’ day.
 - i. The term “leprosy” can mean a host of infectious skin diseases.
 1. Today the term is reserved for Hansen’s Disease, a disease caused by infection by *Mycobacterium leprae*.

2. Cases of OT leprosy were probably not all Hansen's Disease but instead a mixture of bacterial, viral and fungal skin diseases.
 - b. The responsibility of diagnosing leprosy rested on the _____.
 - i. God teaches the priests how to separate out leprosy diseases from harmless skin ailments in **Leviticus 13. (See Handout)**
 - c. The result of leprosy was complete _____ from the community of God.
 - i. Lepers faced horrible existences outside the wall with other lepers.
 - ii. This represents an ancient _____ method.
 1. A system designed to protect God's people had become a system of heartless neglect towards the ill.
 - d. Leprosy not described as a disease in the OT but rather an _____.
 - i. The victim was "unclean" before God and the community.
 - ii. Before he could be restored two cleansings must occur.
 1. _____ cleansing (removal of the disease)
 2. _____ cleansing (in the sight of the Law)
 - iii. This is why Jesus says "be cleansed" and not "be healed."
 - e. The rituals involving ceremonial cleansing were long and protracted.
 - i. **(See Handout)**
 - ii. Only through this process could the victim be restored to _____ with the community.
- 4. Jesus _____ the man not to tell anyone.**
- a. Jesus commands the man not to tell anyone but go to the priest.
 - i. Why would Jesus command this?
 1. This isn't a command to hide what God has done but instead an instruction of *how* to _____ what God has done.
 2. By following the Law Jesus made several things possible:
 - a. The man could be _____ to his family.
 - b. The miracle would be proven to the community via the priest.
 - i. The testimony the man would give later would be _____.
 - c. Jesus was using this man to _____ to the priest through the ceremonial process. **(verse 14)**
 - d. Jesus fulfilled the _____.
- i. Matthew 5:17**
- 5. Conclusions:**
- a. Jesus is patient with the repentant.
 - b. Jesus can and desires to heal us of biological, spiritual, emotional and social ills.
 - c. Jesus did not shy away from dangerous and despised groups of people.
 - d. Jesus perfectly followed and fulfilled God's Law.

Leprosy in Leviticus Handout:

If a man finds a mark on his skin he shall present himself to the priest for examination.

If there is a mark on his body:

If the mark is white or reddish-white but the hair is not white → isolation for 7 days.

If it spreads → he has leprosy. If it does not spread → he is clean.

If the mark is white or reddish-white and the hair is white → he has leprosy.

If the mark is white or reddish and it has spread beneath the skin → he has leprosy.

If the whitish mark covers his whole body:

If there is no raw flesh → he is clean.

If raw flesh appears → he has leprosy.

If there was a boil or burn:

If the flesh from the boil is reddish-white and it spreads beneath the skin → he has leprosy.

If there is an infection in the hair or beard:

If the hair of the infection has turned yellow → he has leprosy.

If the hair of the infection is not black → isolation for 7 days.

If it doesn't spread he is clean.

If a man is bald:

If a man is bald he is clean.

If a bald man gets a reddish-white infection with swelling → he has leprosy.

If a man has been diagnosed with Leprosy:

He is removed from the camp. He must tear his clothes and uncover his head. When he meets someone he must cover his mustache and cry out "Unclean! Unclean!" He will remain unclean, living alone outside the camp until his leprosy heals.

How a Leper is Cleansed according to Leviticus: (Leviticus 14)

1. Examination:
 - a. The priest must examine the former leprosy and declare the infection gone.
2. The Initial Sacrifice.
 - a. Initial Offerings:
 - i. 2 live clean birds
 - ii. A block of cedar wood.
 - iii. A scarlet string.
 - iv. Hyssop.
 - b. Initial Ceremony:
 - i. One bird shall be slain in an earthenware vessel over running water.
 - ii. The other bird, cedar, string and hyssop will all be dipped in the blood of the first bird.
 - iii. The man will be sprinkled 7 times with this blood and the live bird will be released.
3. Returning to the Camp
 - a. The man may enter the camp but not his tent for 7 days.
 - b. On the 7th day he will shave his head, his beard, his eyebrows and all the hair on his body. He shall also wash his clothes and body.
4. The Final Sacrifice
 - a. Final Offerings:
 - i. 2 male lambs without defect
 - ii. 1 yearling ewe lamb without defect
 - iii. 3/10 of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil
 - iv. 1 log of oil
 - b. Final Ceremony
 - i. One lamb will be slaughtered for the guilt offering.
 - ii. Another lamb will be offered as the sin and burnt offering.
 - iii. The priest will take some of the blood and put it on the right ear lobe, right thumb and right big toe of the man to be cleansed.
 - iv. Then the priest will take some of the oil and pour it into his left hand.
 1. This oil will be sprinkled before the Lord 7 times.
 2. Then this oil will be put on the right ear lobe, right thumb and right big toe on top of the blood of the man to be cleansed.
 3. The remaining oil will be put on the head of the man to be cleansed.
 - v. The remaining lamb will be offered as a burnt offering for atonement and the man will be cleansed.