

THE COMPASSIONATE KING

--MARK 1:40-45--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning, we are going to look at the last six verses of Mark 1. In these last six verses of chapter one we will see another miracle, the healing of a leper. Leprosy has always been an illustration of sin, and the healing of it is the illustration of deliverance from sin. The nature of leprosy, with its subtle beginnings, its slow progress, its destructive power, and the ultimate ruin that it brings makes it a powerful symbol of moral depravity, of the sin nature that each of us possesses. If our spiritual eyes were opened, we would see that apart from the work of Christ we would be decaying forms of walking death. With this in mind, let's pray and then turn to our passage for this morning.

I. THE PLEA (Mark 1:40)

- a. Mark summarized for us in the final verse of last week's passage Jesus' _____ ministry throughout Galilee.
- b. It is important to understand that _____, or Hansen's disease as it is better known today, is not a rotting infection as is commonly thought, nor are its horrible outward physical deformities caused by the disease.
- c. This man had no illusions about his miserable _____. (Leviticus 13:45-46)
- d. The spiritual reality for all of us is that we are spiritual _____.
- e. The leper knew how bad off he was, but he also had _____ and confidence in Christ.
- f. We do see a little _____ in the plea of the leper to Jesus when he says, "If you will..." (Mark 10:45; 2nd Peter 3:9; 1st Timothy 2:3-4)

II. THE MIRACLE (Mark 1:41-42)

- a. Jesus Christ, the messianic King responds to this man in three ways, in His _____, in His touch, and in His word.

- b. First, we see the _____ of the King. (2nd Corinthians 5:21)
- c. Second, Jesus did the _____, Mark writes, "*Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him.*" (Mark 1:41b, NASB95)
- d. Why did Jesus _____ the leper?
- e. In describing what took place at that _____, Mark uses his favorite word.
- f. Jesus Christ, the compassionate _____ can do this for anyone in an instant, in a split second of belief. (1st John 1:7)

III. THE WARNING (Mark 1:43-44)

- a. Mark tells us that Jesus sternly _____ the now cleansed man and sent him away.
- b. Why did Jesus tell him to not _____ anyone about what happened to him, about what Jesus did for him?

IV. THE RESULT (Mark 1:45)

- a. Did the cleansed man do as Jesus _____?
- b. Before we leave this passage of _____ it is worth noting something that I believe is here for a reason.

CONCLUSION:

Mark's account of the cleansing of the leper is a wonderful illustration of what Jesus Christ did for us at the cross. As sinners, we were once each spiritual lepers who lived in alienation and isolation from God. God provided a way for us to be cleansed through His Son, Jesus Christ. In order to accomplish our redemption, the Son left the presence of God and went into isolation. He took the leper's place. On the cross, He was rejected by men and even forsaken by the Father. Yet because He was treated as an outcast, those who put their faith in Him have been accepted and welcomed into the presence of God.

Now that Jesus has been to the cross, died and risen again and seated at the right hand of the Father, we can be cleansed of our spiritual leprosy. But unlike the cleansed leper we will never be told to not tell anyone about what Jesus has done for us. In fact, the church

is charged with telling everyone about Jesus. But we must show the same compassion that Jesus showed to the leper that bowed before Him. We must be willing to take the hand of those whom we would help. Sometimes a touch, caring involvement, will do a thousand times more than our theology. Can we bring ourselves to lay our hand on some rotting flesh in our neighborhood, our workplaces, our community, or other places that we find ourselves. Jesus was willing, are you?