



DR. SAM STORMS

Pastor Emeritus of Bridgeway Church
"Enjoying God Ministries" | Oklahoma City, OK

Matthew 8:1-4

Getting Started

Have you ever seen or experienced a miracle in your life? Briefly share a story if you have one.

Discussion

What stood out to you from the sermon this weekend?

What do you know about Matthew 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount)? What does it say about what Jesus is like that this is the story recorded immediately after that sermon?

What do you imagine gave the leper such courage in approaching Jesus? Why is it difficult for us to come to Jesus when we are "stained" or "unclean"? What lies of Satan are behind that difficulty?

What reason(s) does Jesus have for telling the man to keep his healing quiet?

Why did Jesus touch the man? Do you have any stories of experiencing that compassionate touch in your life?

Prayer

Pray for any specific requests anyone has. Praise God for any victories, breakthroughs, or any good thing anyone wants to share.

Who among you needs healing and/or the compassionate touch of Jesus? Take time to lay hands on anyone who asks.

As you go

Read Matthew 8:1-4 using your sanctified imagination. **On the next page** are some simple instructions on how you might engage with this Scripture imaginatively.



1. Imagine the place where Jesus met the man.
2. Engage your senses...what do you smell, see, taste, and touch in the place?
3. Imagine yourself as a character in the story (the leper, a disciple, a member of the crowd) and allow the story to unfold, being drawn in by anything that captures your imagination.
4. Conclude with a conversation in your imagination between Jesus and yourself, as one friend speaks with another. Express what is in your mind and heart and let Jesus express His responses too. Look back at your prayer and honestly ask yourself:

- What did I find myself thinking and feeling? What moved me?
- What struck me (especially the unusual or unexpected) and why did I react the way I did?
- Did anything in the contemplation change the way I see God, myself, or others?
- How did Jesus' words or actions in the contemplation make me feel?

