



#### LOVING THE MARGINALIZED

# **Healing of the Leper**

<sup>12</sup> "While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

<sup>13</sup> Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him."

Luke 5:12-13 NIV

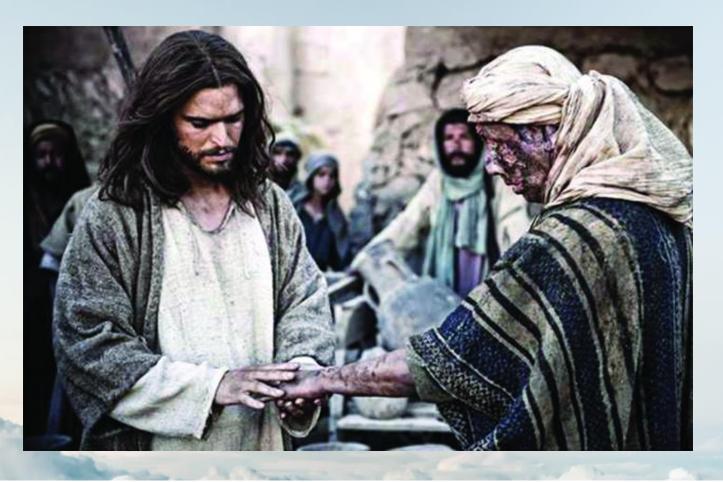
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<sup>14</sup> "Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." <sup>15</sup> Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:14-16 NIV

#### Healing of the Leper







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1. We are to take our faith to the Marginalized

-Bridges Ministry feeding and clothing 400 each month

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"The idea of loving the poor, not just giving alms here and there but loving the poor, is a Christian idea. It came from nowhere else but Christianity."

> Peter Brown Historian Professor at Princeton University



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2. Touching the unclean in Jesus' name – makes them clean

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2. Touching the unclean in Jesus' name – makes them clean

"Those who suffer from a serious skin disease must tear their clothing and leave their hair uncombed. They must cover their mouth and call out, 'Unclean! Unclean!" Leviticus 13:45 NLT



<sup>20</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."
<sup>21</sup> The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Luke 5:20-21 NIV

<sup>22</sup> Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."<sup>25</sup> Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup> Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today." Luke 5:22-26 NIV

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Jesus heals him of the real problem

<sup>23</sup> Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?

Receiving forgiveness is easy But forgiving someone's sins is impossible

<sup>24</sup> "But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

"He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed." 1 Peter 2:24 NLT

"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." 2 Cor 5:21 NLT

The work of forgiveness is infinitely harder than receiving it

#### Help Change People's Hearts toward God

<sup>20</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

Jesus is passionate and willing to give us his grace eager to forgive and eager to bless even to an unformed, imperfect desire for forgiveness