

Leprosy as a Type (Representation) of Sin

#1 – Leprosy has a mysterious origin.

- We still don't know currently how the leprosy germ (bacteria) is spread.
- It wasn't until 1873 that Dr. G.A. Hansen discovered the tiny germ.

#2 – Leprosy is very slow in the beginning.

- At first leprosy appears to be nothing. You may not even notice it.
- Have we ever noticed we can play with sin at first and may even be afraid to dabble in it?
- But its end is ALWAYS death.

#3 – Leprosy causes great damage due to nerve loss that may not even be detected.

- Leprosy sears the nerves so they can't feel damage or harm being done to the body.
 - See 1 Timothy 4:1-2 (especially v.2b)
- Likewise, we can go long we have no more in our spirits.

#4 – Leprosy doesn't produce sharp or unbearable pain at the beginning.

- The prior point is the loss of sensitivity to the body from the disease.
- But this point is that the body will NOT experience the pain it was supposed to recognize.
- Pain is a gift to the body to tell it to change course before greater damage occurs.

#5 – Leprosy grows slowly, but surely.

- A Dr. Thompson has said, "It comes on by degrees in different parts of the body: the hair falls from the head and eyebrows; the nails loosen, decay and drop off; joint after joint of the fingers and toes shrink up and slowly fall away: the gums are absorbed, and the teeth disappear; the nose, the eyes, the tongue, and the palate are slowly consumed; and, finally, the wretched victim sinks into the earth and disappears."

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#6 – Leprosy does cause great pain in the latter stages.

- It doesn't cause great pain in the beginning, but it will in the end.
 - The Pulpit Commentary (p.199) says this, "As if to make up for the painlessness of its earlier stages, it not only causes in its final stage a constant pain of body, but a distress of mind and horror on the part of the sufferer at having become so loathsome and offensive an object to himself and to others."

#7 – Leprosy will, eventually, destroy the whole man.

- It always leads to death unless it is somehow eradicated by God.
 - See James 1:13-15.

#8 – Leprosy has been likened to a "living death".

- See John 3:36.
- See Timothy 5:5-6 (esp. v.6).

#9 – Transmission of leprosy is still not quite understood today.

- And, as with sin, how is it that a child gets their sin nature from their parents.
- But the old saying, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.", is still so true.

#10 – Finally, and I think because of this link to sin, healings from leprosy are typically referred to as "CLEANSING" in scripture, NOT healing.

- We need to be forgiven & CLEANSED from our sins.