

Trading Places with Jesus

Mark 1:40-45

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Leprosy and sin have much in common in that leprosy kills the nerve endings, so the individual with leprosy feels nothing leading to death. Likewise, sin kills our spiritual nerve endings, deadening the conscience and leading to rebellion against God and spiritual death.

To obey and to become more like Jesus, we need to carve out time with God daily to avoid drifting off mission.

Mark 1:40

- The grace of healing is God's to give, not ours to demand.

Mark 1:41-42 ..." he stretched out his hand and touched him."

- We all need to be touched by God. At the cross, the arms of our Lord were stretched out for our redemption.

Mark 1:43-44

I believe Jesus was warning this man of a greater need than his physical healing. The deeper issue was the leprosy within his soul.

- Jesus came to defeat evil, not merely trim it back, and He was victorious. So, don't focus on what Satan is doing; focus on what Christ has done.
- The man with leprosy spoke when he wasn't supposed to. Too often, on the other hand, we remain silent when commanded to speak.

Mark 1:45

- Jesus trades places with the man who had leprosy. The man cleansed could now go into the city; but now Jesus could not.
- At the cross, Jesus trades places with us.

Community Group Discussion Questions:

1. Share a time you cried out to God with a passionate prayer? What was the result?
2. Share a time in your life when Jesus or His church family touched you?
3. When was the last time you shared your testimony with someone?
4. Is there anything you do that hinders the mission of Christ? If yes, what action plan will you put in place to change that?
5. Jesus modeled compassion for the lost and hurting. Has His example changed your perspective and heart for those without Christ?