

- I) V40-45 Then a leper came to Him imploring Him kneeling down to Him and saying to
- II) As we have already seen, Jesus' ministry on earth can be described by three words
Preaching, teaching, and miracles
- III) This is what Matthew told us in his gospel
Mt 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.
- IV) First, Matthew tells us that Jesus taught in the synagogues
He would teach the people concerning Himself and what He came to do
We have an example of this in Luke's gospel
- V) Luke says He was in the synagogue in Nazareth, and stood up to read
He was handed the Book of Isaiah, and read from it to the people
Lu 4:18-21 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."
- VI) Jesus would point to Himself as He expounded the scriptures
Jn 5:39 (Amplified Bible) You search and keep on searching and examining the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and yet it is those [very Scriptures] that testify about Me
- VII) Second, Jesus came preaching the kingdom
This came in conjunction with the teaching, calling people to repentance (Mk 1:14-15)
- VIII) And finally, He came healing all kinds of sickness and diseases (V34)
Part of the purpose of His miracles was to validate His claim of being Messiah
Ac 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under

the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Jn 5:36 I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent Me.

IX) Mark has already reported that Jesus was performing miraculous healings

He healed Peter's mother-in-law, and many who came to Him in Capernaum

I) Mark told us that Jesus healed many who were sick with various diseases (V34)

In this portion of scripture, he records that Jesus cleansed a leper

II) As we will see, it was a very significant miracle that made His popularity explode

So many came streaming to Him that He could no longer openly enter the city

III) Other passages speak to the fact that Jesus healed many lepers
This incident is given more detail because it is very significant

IV) In Israel, leprosy was commonly regarded as a *symbol of sin*
It was a type of sin because it began as a small spot, but progressed over time

V) It was a picture of sin in that it at first was unseen, lying under the surface

VI) What began as something insignificant could result in losing body parts
Fingers, hands, arms, toes, feet, legs, nose and ears could be lost
Sin takes over the entire life, and spiritual rot is the final result

VII) Though it may take time, eventually sin is revealed in the life of the sinner
Think of some of your friends you once considered sweet and caring
How many of them have ended up entirely different than you would have imagined

VIII) Leprosy resulted in the loss of feeling: the leper often harming themselves unknowingly

They could step on something and would not feel it

Sin also numbs us, callusing our hearts to the point we no longer feel

shame

IX) Like sin, leprosy resulted in isolation causing separation from others
Lev 13:45-46 Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!' He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall *dwell alone*; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

X) Some rabbis could be very harsh towards them
Some said no less than 6' must be kept from a leper, 150' is not sufficient in strong wind
Others threw stones at them while other's hid from them when they heard *Unclean*

XI) The Rabbis knew that no prayer, offering, or ritual could cleanse a leper
The law made it clear: only God could cleanse a leper
All the rabbis could do was to examine them and declare what God had done

XII) Again, in the Bible, leprosy is a dreaded disease that is a picture of sin.

I) This is shown by the fact that he doesn't Jesus to heal him, but to be made clean

In these verses, four times either the word clean, cleansed or cleansing is used

II) V40 Now a leper *came to Him* imploring Him kneeling down to Him saying to Him

This was a man who was normally rejected by everybody that would see him

his was extraordinary because normally, he would have fled from a Rabbi

III) Undoubtedly he had heard of the fame of Jesus and came to a decision about Him

He believed that Jesus could make him clean, and in faith came to Him
He came to Jesus, even though he had been rejected by everybody he came near

IV) V40 A leper *came to Him*, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying

to Him

Lu 5:12 tells us that he was full of (covered by) leprosy

- V) His desperation drove him to do what he was not allowed to do
He approached Jesus, in the city, before a crowd of people
This was totally unlawful for him to do
Nu 5:2 Command the people of Israel that they put out of the camp everyone who is leprous...
- VI) In spite of this he came to Jesus and begged Him to cleanse him
His need was great, and his prayer was filled with sincere passion
Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
- VII) V40 He said If you are willing, You can make me clean
This leper believed one thing: Jesus could heal him
- VIII) Jews knew for absolute certainty that only God could cleanse a leper
Yet this man recognized Jesus had God's authority to heal and cried out to Him
- IX) V40 If You are willing You can make me clean
He believed that Jesus had power, but he didn't know if Jesus would use it.
- X) God's will must never be confused with God's power
God has all power, but His power is operated through His will
- XI) V41-42 And Jesus moved with compassion put out His hand and touched him
Jesus was moved to action by His compassion! He was touched by his pain
Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are --yet was without sin.
- I) Imagine what the onlookers thought: it was completely out of what was accepted
This man could not go to the temple or synagogue because he was unclean
He was completely cut off from family, friends, and people in general

- II) He was not supposed to be around people and yet here he was
This would have outraged people, and some would have moved away from him
Others would have simply watched to see what Jesus would do
- III) In touching him Jesus could have been declared unclean
Lev 5:3 If he touches human uncleanness, of whatever sort his uncleanness may be with which he becomes unclean, and it is hidden from him, and then he comes to know it, he will be guilty.
- IV) Jesus made a simple point: He was willing to touch someone others refused to touch
This man had not had human touch for some time, but Jesus touched him
- V) V40 The man had said: If you are willing, you can make me clean
V41 If you are *willing*: Jesus said I am willing
You can make me clean: Jesus said to him Be cleansed!
- VI) V41 Tells us that Jesus was moved with *compassion*
Compassion: To suffer with; show mercy to; show pity
Someone else's pain becomes your pain
- VII) It is what motivates someone to alleviate the pain of someone else
It is something that God shows to His people
Is 49:13 Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones
- VIII) By His touch, the leper was cleansed
The cleansing was immediate: from his terrible condition he was now totally healthy
The joy and wonder would have been overwhelming
- IX) V43-44 And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once. And He said to him See
Only God could cleanse a leper, and when this happened certain requirements existed
Lev 14 gives the requirements that were to be fulfilled

X) V44 Jesus told him not to speak to anyone but to show himself to the priest

By going to the priests, a witness that God is at work will come to them

XI) This would be a testimony to them, showing them that Jesus was Messiah

I) Cleansing a leper was something the Messiah would do

Mt 11:5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, *those who have leprosy are cleansed*, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

II) V45 However he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the matter

We saw him earlier at his best, now we see his worst

His disobedience deprived others of Jesus' touch

III) The man now can be in the city, but Jesus is no longer able to minister
After cleansing him, the man now remains but Jesus goes to a desert place

He literally traded places with Him

IV) V1-12 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in

Jesus was ministering throughout Galilee and it became difficult to move about freely

Because of this He withdrew for a time, perhaps weeks or even months

V) He returned to Capernaum, and after some days people took notice that He was there

Crowds were now following him, and word spread that He had returned to Capernaum

He is once again staying in Peter's home

VI) V2 Immediately many gathered together so that there was no longer room to receive them

Word spread that Jesus was in town and again a crowd gathered to hear Him

VII) QUESTION: Now that there is a crowd gathered, what did Jesus do

VIII) Earlier, Peter had told Jesus that everybody was looking for Him (1:37)
They still are, packed so tightly that there is no room for them in the home

There were so many that the doors were blocked by people

IX) There were some followers of Jesus in the crowd, but the majority were curious

Jesus' miracles had drawn them, and they wanted to see His works

Even to this day, some evangelists advertise healing ministry and crowds gather

X) V2 What did He do? He preached the word to them

Within this group of curiosity seekers were people who were in need of forgiveness

XI) Because He had come to preach the gospel of salvation, He took opportunity to preach

This is the center of the ministry of Jesus: Preaching the gospel (Mk 1:38)

Jn 5:24 I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

I) His crowds needed to become His converts

He did not want people to only come to hear Him speak or wonder at His works

II) They needed to be saved so Jesus preached to them

Explaining the scriptures, presenting Himself as found in them, drawing people to Himself and even causing others to reject Him

III) There are generally three basic groups in gatherings like this

There are the followers of Jesus who come to hear His word, being hungry for truth

There are the curious, who are just part of the crowd but not really interested

There are the religious people who come looking for something to disagree with

IV) V3 Then they came to Him bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men

This man was incapable of moving about on his own, so his friends brought him

V) As much as they loved him, they were incapable of healing him and bringing freedom

They all knew that Jesus had the power to heal

VI) Earlier we saw how Jesus healed many who were sick with *various diseases*

This would have included those who were unable to walk (Mt 11:5)

VII) It seems that the man had not been able to see Jesus when He had been there before

Jesus is in town, and his friends bring him to Jesus hoping for healing

VIII) He couldn't come to Jesus without help, and they were there to be of help to him

Pr 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity
As true friends, they brought him (physically) to the Lord

IX) True friends are the ones who bring you to the Lord, not take you away from Him

Choose your friends wisely, because you influence one another for good, or for bad

1 Co 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

X) These five men cared for one another, and his four friends carried him to see Jesus

XI) V4 When they could not come near Him because of the crowd they uncovered the roof

Luke tells us that they tried to get in, but it was too crowded (Lu 5:19)

XII) Since it was just too hard for them, they decided to just leave and try some other time

No, that isn't what happened

XIII) They climbed the outside stairs to the roof and began pulling it apart

- I) The roof was flat, overlaid with branches and covered with mud, straw and tiles
- II) They determined where Jesus was and began to break apart the roof
As they worked, falling debris created a billowy cloud as particles drifted in the dust
Sunlight began to filter in, and the bottom of the mat appears
- III) Slowly and gently they lowered the bed on which their friend was lying
- IV) Luke tells us that he ended up right at the feet of Jesus (Lu 5:19)
- V) V5 When Jesus *saw their faith* (both his and his friends)
Their faith was revealed by their hard work
- VI) Genuine faith is always a working faith
It is part of the life of someone who is truly saved
Titus 3:4 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful
- VII) He also saw the man's faith, as he trusted his friends to get him to Jesus
- VIII) Jesus saw faith in action: faith is a trust that results in action
It is intellectually trusting in God, and putting that trust into action
- IX) Their faces were sweaty, and their hands were dirty from breaking up the roof
They put in this hard work because they trusted that Jesus would minister to him
Jas 2:17 Even so faith if it has not works, is dead, being alone.
- X) Jesus saw faith but the people in the room saw the mess and the commotion
- XI) V5 Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralytic, Son your sins are forgiven you
What was outwardly obvious was that the man needed physical healing
- XII) What was hidden was the man needed forgiveness
He needed to know that he could be forgiven of his sins, which

internally crippled him

XIII) There are so many today who can physically walk but are terribly paralyzed by guilt

Sin guilt cripples many people: they are depressed and unable to enjoy life

Ps 51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

XIV) While the people thought of only the physical, Jesus saw the invisible He needed forgiveness: his real need was salvation

I) V5 Jesus said Son your sins are forgiven you

Son, your sins are forgiven (driven away; sent away)

Ps 103:12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

II) He needed forgiveness of his sins more than the ability to walk

What was worse to him than paralysis was his guilt before God

Mt 16:26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

III) V6-7 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts Why does

After Jesus pronounced forgiveness of sins, the scribes reacted internally

IV) V7 This man blasphemes! Who can forgive sins but God only?

They know that mere men can not forgive sins

V) Only God can forgive sins

Is 43:25 I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for My own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

VI) They instantly understood what Jesus was saying: He was claiming to be God

This gave the hostile religious leaders the information they wanted

They now can discredit Him as one who is a sinful blasphemer

VII) V8 Immediately when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within

VIII) Jesus responds in a way that confirms His deity
He responded to their thoughts, which confirmed that He was God in the flesh

Ps 44:21 For He knows the secrets of the heart.

IX) He also performed a work that revealed His divine power and authority

X) V9 Which is easier? To say to the paralytic Your sins are forgiven you, or to say Arise

To say someone is forgiven is easier than to heal that person physically
One is an act that is not obviously visible, the other is immediate and visible

XI) V10-11 But that *you may know* that the Son of Man has *power on earth* to forgive sins

Jesus forgives every manner of sin that occurs before you die
1 Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

I) V11 I say to you Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house
The invisible forgiveness is demonstrated by the visible healing:
The crippled was made to walk through faith and obedience

II) V12 Immediately he arose took up the bed and went out in the presence of them all

Jesus gives an impossible command, yet there is a response of faith
Lu 5:25-26 Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"

III) V12 All were amazed and glorified God

The miracle brought glory to God, and drew people to Him
Micah 7:18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

IV) WHEN YOU ARE MADE TO WALK: People also will be drawn to Jesus

**'21 MK 1:40-2:12 WE NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THIS 8/8/21
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