

7/5/20

The Desperate Need Of Sinners

Mk. 1:40-45

The Bible gives us many descriptions of man's spiritual sinful nature that can only bring forth unrighteousness, unless he is born again.

* Man is portrayed as lost, blind, crippled and having a deceitful heart.

But leprosy is God's most vivid descriptive picture of man's spiritual condition of being dead while living.

1. For a leper was considered as one dead for Moses told the Lord as he struck Miriam with leprosy for speaking against Moses, "Please don't let her be as one dead." Num. 12:12

2. King Uzziah was struck with leprosy when he presumed on the office of Priest. 2Chron. 26

3. Leprosy is not only a picture of man's spiritual condition before God, but a type of sin in Scripture.

* The occasion of the cleansing of the leper happened in the area of the Galilee, Matthew says it occurred after coming down from the Sermon on the Mount. Matt. 8:1

Let's look at Mark's account which is characterized by three things. Mk. 1:40-45

I. The perception of the leper. vs. 40

II. The proclamation of the Lord to the leper. vs. 41-44

III. The promulgation of the leper. vs. 45

I. The perception of the leper. vs. 40

* The parallel passages. Matt. 8:1-4; Lk. 5:12-16

A. The leper recognized he had a incurable need and approached the One able to meet his need. vs. 40a

1. The condition of the man is described, "Now a leper." vs. 40a

a. The leper was making his way through the crowd that and without doubt alarming to all.

1) This was unlawful, "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!'" Lev. 13:45

2) Matthew says, "And behold a leper". Matt. 8:2

3) Luke used a medical term for the advance stages where disfigurement occurs and says he was "full of leprosy", the worst stages. Lk. 5:12

b. There were various kinds of leprosy, some were non-contagious others very contagious, causing the loss of feeling and disfiguring of the face, hands, etc.

1) The leper was considered as one dead, excommunicated from human contact with friends or family and lived

- outside the camp or dump of the city.
Num. 12:12; Lev. 13-14
- 2) Leprosy was incurable and yet God gave provisions for the cleansing of the Leper by God's miraculous touch.
Lev. 14:1-32
* A leper is never said to be healed, but cleansed!
 - 3) Leprosy is still incurable in our day, but it can be arrested in its horrible progress, called Hansen's disease.
2. The desparation of the leprose man is declared, "came to Him." vs. 40a
 - a. The leprose man came right up to Jesus.
 - 1) The word to "pros", means face to face.
 - 2) The same word is used for Jesus before the Incarnation, "In the beginning was the word and the word was with "pros" face to face with God and God was the word." Jn. 1:1
 - b. The leper had nothing to lose, if they stoned him to death, it did not matter.
 - 1) The man was living as one that was dead, having not contact with family, friends or anyone one in society.
 - 2) The only people he had contact or communication was others like himself, living among the dead.

- B. The leper recognized he was before One greater than himself. vs. 40b-c
 1. The perception of the leperous man is recorded for us, "implored Him". vs. 40b
 - a. The perception of the leprose man was keener than other who were seeing and hearing Jesus. vs. 40b
 - 1) Like the Pharisees and Scribes.
 - 2) Like many of the Jews and Gentiles.
 - b. The leprose man knew no one could heal him, but Jesus.
 - 1) The word imploring "parakaleo" means to call to one's side or to summon.
 - a) The word appears 109 times in the New Testament.
 - b) It is translated "beseech" 43 times, comfort 23 times.
 - c) Pray 5 times, entreat 3 times and besought 1 times.
 - 2) The clear understanding by the used of the word "imploring" was that his need was not possible with man.
 - a) He came to Jesus, along-side Him beseeching, entreating and begging to meet his need.
 - b) This was his last option.
 2. The adoration of Jesus by the leprose man is depicted as worship, "kneeling down to Him." vs. 40c

- a. The phrase kneeling down “gonupeteo”, means to fall on one’s knees to implore aid and expressing reverence and honor.
 - 1) Again to one greater than himself.
 - 2) Again one able to help.
- b. The two other synoptic gospels confirm this clearly.
 - 1) Matthew says the leper worshipped “proskuneo” Jesus, meaning to prostrate oneself before a superior giving obeisance to him. Matt. 8:2
 - 2) Luke says he fell on his face and begged, confirming the worship of the leper. Lk. 5:12

C. The leper recognized Jesus could cleanse him.
vs. 40c-e

- 1. The leper respected the sovereignty of Jesus as God, “and saying to Him, “If You are willing”. vs. 40c-d
 - a. The law as we have noted made provisions for God’s divine intervention on behalf of the lepers. Lev. 13-14
 - b. The question was not the Jesus’ ability, but the deciding choice of Jesus’ will.
 - c. The leprous man was declaring to Jesus he trusted Him to make the best decision, even though he wanted to be cleansed.
 - * We know we have what we ask for, if we ask according to the will of God. 1Jn. 5:14-15

- 2. The confession of the leprose man was his faith in Jesus. vs. 40e
 - a. The leper recognized the power and authority of Jesus to cleanse him, “You can make me clean.”
 - 1) The word clean “katharizo”, means to be cleansed from physical stains, dirt, moral uncleanness or from leprosy.
 - 2) The context will dictate what or who is being cleansed to be made pure or whole again.
 - b. The leper story is recorded in all three synoptic gospels with the exact words.
 - 1) Matthew says, “And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Matt. 8:2
 - 2) Luke says, “And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Lk. 5:12

Illustration

The Jewish captive girl that served the wife of Naaman told her there was a prophet in Samaria that could heal him of his leprosy, so he went. 2Kings 5:1-

Application

1. Leprosy is a type of sin in Scripture, it destroys, bring great suffering to one's own life and that of others.
 - a. The interesting thing is that a leper is never said to be healed, but cleansed, just like man from sin, we are not healed, but cleansed!
 - b. Sin-nature remains in us, but we no longer have to obey and be slaves to it because Jesus gives us a new divine nature to escape the corruption of this world through lust. 2Pet. 1:3-4
2. The promise and power to cleanse us from all sin is given by God, who cannot lie.
 - a. To be whiter than snow, cast them behind His back and never mentioned again, buried in the depths of the sea, being a new creatation. Ps. 51:7; Is. 38:17; Is. 43:25" Mic. 7:19; 2Cor. 5:17
 - b. Matthew quotes Isaiah 53:5 for physical healing is part of the benefit in the atonement, but at the will of God. Matt. 8:17; Ja. 5:15-16; Heb. 4:15
 - b. Peter quotes the same text in Isaiah for our spiritual healing, a double provision in Scripture, physical and spiritual. 1Pet. 2:24-25
1. Too often individuals do not recognize their spiritual need to be cleansed from sin; therefore they never respond or call on Jesus.
 - a. Their confidence is in their own goodness. Rom. 3:10-11
 - b. Their confidence is in their works. Tit. 3:5
 - c. Their confidence is in their baptism or religious affiliation, 1Pet. 3:19-21

2. Too often individuals don't recognize the authority of Jesus to cleanse the worst of sins.
 - a. God speaking through Isaiah said, "Come now, and let us **reason together**," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool." Is. 1:18
 - b. Jesus said, "All that come to me I will in no way cast out." Jn. 6:37
 - c. Jesus said, "**Come to Me**, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30
* "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything **too hard** for Me?" Jer. 32:27

The perception of the leper was that he saw Jesus as the Messiah!

II. The proclamation of the Lord. vs. 41-44

- A. The decision of Jesus was to cleanse the leprose man. vs. 41
 1. The motive of Jesus is revealed, "Then Jesus, moved with compassion." vs. 41a-b
 - a. The word compassion "spkagchnizomai", "literally means with one's bowels, referring to the viseral area.

- 1) The idea is of having pity on one unable to help themselves in their miserable condition.
 - 2) Having sympathy and empathizing with their state, extending mercy.
- b.** Only Mark says this about the leper, Jesus had pity and mercy on the leper for his miserable condition unable to help himself.
- 1) The word is found three other times in Mark. Mk. 6:34; 8:2; 9:22
 - 2) This is always God's attitude towards sinful man.
- 2.** The action of Jesus is described, "stretched out His hand and touched him." vs. 41c
- a.** Now it was against the law to touch a leper.
 - b.** Touching a leper made a person unclean and defiled by virtue of physical contact.
 - c.** Did Jesus not know this or did He think He was above the law?
- 3.** The words of Jesus are declared, "and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." vs. 41d-f
- a.** The hearing of the words, "I am willing", had to have been so exilering to the leprous man.
 - 1) We are not told how long the man had been a leper.
 - 2) We are not told if he had a family.

- 3) But we do know he was living as one who was dead to all in society.
- b.** Then followed the word that changed his life forever, "be cleansed".
- 1) The word cleansed "katharizo", means to purge clean, as we noted no leper is ever said to be healed but cleansed.
 - 2) This was the sovereign provision of God for the cleansing of the leper. Lev. 14
- B.** The revelation about the cleansing of the leprous man. vs. 42
- 1.** The commentary regarding the cleansing is stated, "As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him." vs. 42a
 - a.** The instant Jesus said to the leper, "I am willing, be cleansed", he was cleansed from his leprosy.
 - b.** So when Jesus touched him, he was no longer a leper, but a cleansed man.
 - c.** Jesus touched him not to heal him, but to give evidence that he was cleansed!
 - d.** The word immediately "eutheos" appears again varifying the instant cleaning.
 - e.** Therefore Jesus broke no law nor was He defiled!
 - 2.** The concluding diagnosis of the leper is also stated, "and he was cleansed." vs. 42b
 - a.** The authority and power of the words of Jesus were absolute.

- b. The command to be cleansed is in verse 41.
 - c. The declaration of his cleansing is in verse 42.
3. The two other synoptic gospels confirm the words of Jesus and the cleansing of the leper.
- a. Matthew says, “Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” **Immediately** his leprosy was cleansed.” Matt. 8:3
 - b. Luke says, “Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” **Immediately** the leprosy left him.” Lk. 5:13
 - c. The slight difference and variation of the synoptics is one of the greatest evidence of being independent of each, rather than dependent on each other.
- C. The proclamation of Jesus to the leper. vs. 43-44
- 1. Jesus gave the leper a clear command to be obeyed, “And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once.” vs. 43
 - a. The word strictly “embrimaomai”, indicates and expresses a stern charge.
 - b. The tense is a participle aorist in the middle voice, a command given to him that only he was to obey, no one could do it for him.

- 2. Jesus gave the leper also clear instructions. vs. 44
 - a. First he was to not tell no one of his cleaning, “and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone.” vs. 44a-b
 - 1) Jesus did not want the notoriety.
 - 2) Jesus was hindered by the mere crowds that were not true seekers.
 - b. Second he was to go directly to the priest, “but go your way, show yourself to the priest.” vs. 44c-d
 - 1) The priest would examine the man for several days to insure he was clean.
 - 2) The priest would then offer the sacrifice.
 - 3) The priest would declare him clean.
 - * Jesus our High Priest offered Himself for us, as our sacrifice and has declared us clean! Heb. 7:27
 - c. Third he was to obey the requirements of the law, “and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded.” vs. 44e
 - 1) The provision for the cleansing of the leper in the law was in the offering of two birds with a particular ritual. Lev. 14:1-7
 - 2) The one was killed and the live bird was dipped in the water and blood, then released in the open field, all prophetic of Christ.

- 3) Then the man would be reinstated in the life of family, friend, worship and society.
- d. Fourth he was to be a witness to the priests about his cleansing, “as a testimony to them.” vs. 44f
 - 1) That is was Jesus who had cleansed him.
 - 2) That God had been sovereign and merciful to him as the law had made provisions.

Illustration

When the king of Israel read the letter sent by the king of Syria to heal Naaman, he tore his clothes, so Elisha sent his messenger Gehazi to tell him to go wash in the Jordan seven times and his flesh would be restore clean. But he got all offended expecting Elisha to come out himself to heal him and that there were better rivers like the Pharpar in Damascus, but he had a wise servant that advised him he had nothing to lose, so he dipped himself seven times and was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean. 2Kings 5:5-14

Application

1. Jesus proclaims to us that He is not only able, but willing to cleanse us from our past sins, but those we commits as believers and those we cater to and plagues us.

- a. Wheather we are married, single, male or female.
 - b. Be it anger, unforgivness, resentment, bitterness, hatred or lust.
 - c. Be it falling back into alcohol, drugs, pornography!
 - 1) “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so **easily** ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” Heb. 12:1
 - 2) “Let all **bitterness**, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.” Eph. 4:31-32
2. Jesus by His word speaks to us to draw us to Himself that we might trust Him in faith for our salvation.
- a. “For we **walk** by **faith**, not by sight.” 2Cor. 5:7
 - b. I say then: **Walk** in the **Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
 - * “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” Gal. 5:16-18

3. Jesus will touch us and be one with us in fellowship as we confess our sins genuinely repenting, we have His word.

- a. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.” 1Jn. 1:8-10
- b. “My little **children**, these things I **write** to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” 1Jn. 2:1

This proclamation of the Lord was the evidence of being the Messiah!

III. The promulgation of the leper. vs. 45

- A. The cleansed leper proclaimed his cleansing. vs. 45a-c
 1. The leper’s excitement about his cleansing overwhelmed him, “However, he went out and began to proclaim *it* freely.” vs. 45a-b
 - a. He now could be reunited with family and friends.
 - b. He proclaim “kerusso”, same word for the preaching of the good news of the gospel by Jesus.

- c. He did the same thing we would have done.
2. The leper’s intent was to make known that Jesus cleansed him, “and to spread the matter.” vs. 45d
 - a. The word spread “diaphemizo”, means to blaze abroad.
 - b. Without any doubt due to his appreciation of the Lord’s grace and mercy.
 - 1) Who He was.
 - 2) How Jesus had compassion on him.
 - 3) Where it took place.
 - c. Without doubt again in view of his cleansing.
 - 1) What had happened to him being a leper.
 - 2) As one who had come back from the dead.
- B. The cleansed leper pointed men to Jesus. vs. 45d-f
 1. The effect of his witness for Jesus is stated, “so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city.” vs. 45d
 - a. The crowds grew in number and Jesus could no longer walk in public any longer.
 - b. The number of people that recognized Jesus as Messiah also grew.

2. The decision of Jesus, “but was outside in deserted places.” vs. 45e
 - a. The growing danger was in the people wanting to make Him king to overthrow Rome. Jn. 6:15
 - b. The mission of Jesus was to prepare for the church age, not the Kingdom Age.
3. The demand on Jesus are also stated, “and they came to Him from every direction.” vs. 45f
 - a. They came to him from every quarter.
 - b. The daily ministry became exhaustive, the demand on His touch was overwhelming, His family thought he had lost His mind and sought Jesus out.
4. Luke records, “However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed. Lk. 5:15-16
 - * His works bore witness of who He was, the Incarnate God-Man and Messiah!
 - b. His coming was to draw all men to Himself and become sin for the entire world. Jn. 3:16; 2Cor. 5:21; 1Jn. 2:2
 - c. His mission was to forgive and cleanse man from his sin by His atoning sacrifice and grace through faith. Rom 1:16-17; Eph. 2:8-9

- d. Every person had to make a decision to come to Jesus.

Illustration

Naaman returned to Elisha and confessed that he knew there was no God in all the earth, except in Israel and that when he went into the temple of Rimmon and bow, in affect it would be to Yahweh . 2King 5:15-19

Application

1. Have you proclaimed God’s cleansings and forgiveness of all your sins or have you forgotten?
 - a. “For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in the temple of .” Eph. 2:10
 - b. “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 1Pet. 3:15-16
 - c. “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be **witnesses** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8
2. Are you pointing men to Jesus or your church, its programs, its pastor?

- a. Jesus said to him, “I am the **way**, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Jn. 14:6
- b. John records, “Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the **Savior** of the **world**.” Jn. 4:42
- c. Peter says, “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the **precious blood** of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1Pet. 1:17-19

The promulgation of the leper was that Jesus was the Messiah!

Conclusion

The cleansing of the leper is characterized by:

- I. The perception of the leper was to see Jesus as the Messiah!
- II. The proclamation of the Lord was the evidence of being the Messiah!
- III. The promulgation of the leper was that Jesus was the Messiah!