

With God
Part 2
“There is Cleansing”

Matthew 8

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. 4 Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

- For this man this was the opportunity of a lifetime
- He knew he must seize the opportunity of a lifetime during the lifetime of the opportunity.

This man had a great need that no one could help...

Everyone had given up and abandoned him to this fatal disease...

He was in an isolated place

His pain and struggle no one else could understand or fix

He lived in a place of loneliness & desperation

When Jesus walks into his world the question in his mind was not, Jesus if you can, but Jesus if you are willing...

Jesus is Willing

Vs. 3

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

- Jesus did the forbidden thing...
- He came in contact with and touched a leper...
- Leprosy is very contagious and under Jewish Law a leper was considered unclean and forbidden to be in the city limits or anywhere near others...
- leprosy was a death sentence to anyone who got it...
- Biblically it's viewed as a physical counterpart to the spiritual problem of sin. That is why when a leper is healed, in the bible, it is called a cleansing and not a healing.

- Do you see the similarity with sin
- it is forbidden by God.
- It causes decay and even death.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- With sin we are warned to stay away from it and we will be received.

2 Corinthians 6

17 Therefore

“Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.”

- With all that in mind consider what happened hear...

Vs. 2,3

2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before Jesus and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!”...

Can we be reminded of something powerful and true this morning:
With God there is Cleansing

Vs. 3 goes on to say

...Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

I know this was a powerful life changing moment for this man...

I know this was an amazing miracle of healing in his body...

But knowing how God works, I believe something else happened that day... Something more than him just being healed of a flesh eating disease...

Because Jesus cares about the Soul, I believe he was cleansed not only on the outside but something happened on the inside...

Like Jesus said to the Pharisees:

Matthew 23

25 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. **26** Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

What about the man who was let down through the roof

Mark 2

9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? **10** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, **11** “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” **12** He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Jesus cares about the condition of the Soul...

With God there is Cleansing...

Illustration:

If I go out to the shop and I get grease and oil all over me...
Or if I've been outside working and I'm dirty, smelly, sweaty and nasty...

And I come inside the house and Audra is all cleaned up and her hair is done and she smells all good...

She does not want me to give her a hug...

Why?

Because filth is transferable... my filthy, smelly, sweaty self is will get on her...

The only thing Audra wants for me is a shower...

The same is true spiritually...

The world transfers filth...

Spiritually there is nothing in this world that can make you clean...

The pastor can't make you clean...

The church can't make you clean...

The only thing that can make you Spiritually Clean is Jesus...

What can wash away my sin

Nothing but the blood of Jesus

What can make me whole again

Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow

No other fount I know

Nothing but the blood of Jesus

“With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Matt 19:26

With God there is Cleansing

Psalm 51

10

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11

Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

The cry of King David is profound and reveals something about God...

- He is able to create in us a Clean Heart
- Oh is there anyone else who can do this?
- Is this not the Greatest Miracle of all...
- To transform and change a heart...
- To turn a dark, sin stained soul into something clean, redeemed, righteous...

Jesus reached out His Hand

Vs. 3

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said.

No one would dare do what Jesus did
No one could do what Jesus did
Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man...
Then he says the words "I am"
"I am" describes the person saying it:

For example:

I am tired...

I am hungry ...

I am _____

For God:

I am speaks to who he is...

Matthew Henry says the name "I AM" explains his name Jehovah, and is linked to the sacred unspoken name of God - YHWH

It signifies:

1. That he is self-existent. (Invisible Qualities & Divine Attributes)
2. That he is eternal and unchangeable.
3. That he is incomprehensible.
4. That he is faithful and true to all his promises and his word.

To Abraham (God says in a Vision)

I am God Almighty

I am the Lord

To Jacob (as he flees Laban)

I am the God of Bethel

To Moses (at the burning bush)

I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.

I am who **I am**

I am the Lord.

To Israel (In the law of Leviticus)

I am the Lord your God.

Jesus Said:

John 8

before Abraham was born, **I am!**"

John 9

I am the light of the world

John 10

I am the gate

I am the good shepherd.

John 11

I am the resurrection and the life.

John 14

I am the way and the truth and the life

To this Leper who had lost hope

Matthew 8

I am willing

Jesus will touch what no one else will touch

Jesus can touch what no one else can touch

Jesus can cleanse what no one else can cleanse

If Jesus can cleanse this leper, He can cleanse you...

If Jesus will touch this leper, He will touch you today...

If Jesus was willing for Him, Jesus is willing for you...

Isn't it good to know that with God there is Cleansing...

Prayer:

Song

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.

You are the potter, I am the clay,

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.

Jesus I think you that you were willing to touch a leper...
Jesus there is a Spiritual Leprosy in our world... It is called Sin...
Jesus will you reach out your hand right now...
Lord we invite you right now to Cleanse our hearts...
Cleanse your Church Lord...
Cleanse your people...
Wash us with your blood...
Lord cleanse us and make us White as Snow...

The Bible says that "He made him who knew no sin to become sin for us that we might become the righteousness God in Him"

I pray that today over this church...
Will you take away the filth of the world...
Will you make us the Righteousness of God in Christ...

I pray for hearts right now...
I pray for thought lives right now...
Lord will you Cleanse...

I pray for bad habits to be broken and good habits to be formed...
Lord give us a fresh revelation and encounter with your Holy Presence...

In Jesus Name