



**Sermon Title:** The One We Follow

**Sermon Title:** Completely Cleansed

**Date:** 7/3/2022

**Mark 1:40-45**

**Big Idea: Let Jesus make you spiritually clean**

In this passage, we see three stages of progression that led to this man's cleansing.

### **THE MAN'S CONDITION**

This man is defined by his hopeless condition – he has Leprosy. **Mark 1:40** Leprosy is a horrible disease that was a death sentence. It attacks the nerves in the body, causing numbness to pain, and eventually, all feeling disappears. The potential for extreme injury is severe, which leads to infections and ultimately results in rotting flesh and loss of limbs. The disease is so severe that God instructs the Israelites on how to deal with it. **Leviticus 13:45-46**

Leprosy is a graphic picture of sin and its effects on the human condition.

- Leprosy decays the body as sin decays the spirit.
- Leprosy destroys nerves in the body, leaving a person with no feeling; sin increasingly destroys the sensitivity of the spiritual nerves leaving a person with no ability to feel.
- Leprosy becomes increasingly visible on the body as sin becomes increasingly visible in a person's life
- Leprosy separates people from others as sin separates people from God
- Leprosy leads to physical death; sin leads to spiritual death

### **JESUS COMPASSION**

**Mark 1:40**

We serve a savior who is able and willing to cleanse anyone who approaches Him. We read how Jesus reacted to this man. **Mark 1:41-42**

The word pity in this passage is a word that goes beyond just having sympathy for someone – it means that he was moved in his inmost parts – in

his guts. It wasn't just a simple emotion. This man's condition affected Jesus physically. Jesus reached out and touched him. This man mattered to Jesus. What this man was going through mattered to Jesus, so he put his hand on him - not to heal him but to be compassionate. **Psalm 86:15**

Jesus contaminating Himself was never a threat because Jesus' purity and cleanness were far superior to the uncleanness of Leprosy. When Jesus agreed to cleanse this man, He did what this man nor anybody else could do - remove the thing that was making him unclean. When Jesus cleansed this man, it was on a divine level, and the man was fully restored - his skin was wiped clean, and any disfigurements vanished.

Jesus still offers that same hope of a new life today for all who come to him **Romans 10:13**. If you go to Jesus, He instantly washes away the stain of sin so that you are white as snow in the eyes of God the Father. You become someone new. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

## **CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS**

**Mark 1:43-45**

Jesus tells the man not to say anything to anybody but to go directly to the priests. Jesus sent this man away with the intent of him becoming a witness to a specific group of people - the priests in the temple. Jesus wanted the man to go through the process of offering sacrifices so that the priests who originally pronounced him unclean could see the undeniable power of Jesus. Jesus had a purpose behind those instructions, but the man disobeyed, which is where the problem starts. Jesus' primary ministry was to proclaim the gospel, and He traveled and preached the gospel to different towns and synagogues around Galilee. Suddenly that had to stop because mobs of people were coming to him, not to hear His message but to see Him perform. He could no longer go into the towns and preach.

Previously the leper was to remain in desolate places, and Jesus was in the towns, but because the leper disobeyed, Jesus was now forced to remain in desolate places, and the man was able to go into town. Jesus traded places with the leper. Jesus told this man not to speak, and he disobeyed, which hindered the spread of the gospel.

Jesus gives us a commission that is the opposite of what He told the leper. Instead of being quiet about Him, Jesus tells us to go into the whole world and tell everyone about Him - yet so many Christians disobey Him hindering the spread of the gospel.

And just as Jesus traded places with the leper, in a much more impactful way, on the cross, Jesus traded places with you. He was Holy, and we were sinners, but on the cross, He traded places with us and made it, so we have the opportunity to be holy, and He became sin. **2 Corinthians 5:21** He took the punishment that we deserved.

### Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Have you ever had a “Meet the Queen” moment when you just felt not worthy/underdressed/underqualified/not clean enough? Describe it from your point of view, and then describe it from Jesus’ point of view.
- Can you think of other ways that Leprosy is a physical representation of sin?
- What are some modern-day equivalents of Leprosy? (This is not necessarily limited to only physical equivalents – are there mental health/behavioral/social equivalents as well?)
- Did this man’s disobedience impact whether or not he was a follower of Jesus? Explain
- In our daily lives in the places that we are, how can we follow Jesus’ clear set of directions to spread the gospel and not be quiet about Him?
- How can we obey this command and not be quiet about Jesus with people struggling with their own versions of Leprosy?