

Friend of Sinners

Part 4: Untouchable

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Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor

A religious but welcome insinuation:

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

– Matthew 9:11

Broken words worth redeeming:

Father

Sinner

Touch

Mark 1:40 – 45

⁴⁰ A man with leprosy came to him [Jesus] and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

⁴¹ Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

⁴³ Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴ “See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” ⁴⁵ Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

With one pure and powerful touch, Jesus restored the leper’s...

Body

Humanity

Dignity

Community

Hope

Small Group Questions

- 1) Are you a rule breaker or a rule keeper? Why do you think you’re that way?
- 2) Have you ever broken a rule on purpose? What rule do you break and why did you do it?
- 3) Read the passage again. What strikes you about Jesus exposing himself to the life-threatening reality of an incurable disease? How does the story change when it’s your life-threatening condition of sin?
- 4) Why do you believe the healed man disregarded Jesus’ warning to remain quiet? Do you think there were personal consequences to the healed man’s choice?
- 5) What is your perspective on the words *father*, *sinner* and *touch* after this story concludes?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?