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•Not allowed on the streets. Not allowed in the synagogue. Not even welcome in my own home.

•I am fascinated by this group. Especially this 1 man.

•In the times of the Bible leprosy was the most dreaded disease.

•**Leprosy is a slowly progressing bacterial infection that affects the skin, peripheral nerves in the hands and feet, and mucous membranes of the nose, throat, and eyes. It destroys nerves, which can lead to a loss of sensation (numbness) in affected areas. This loss of sensation means that small cuts can go unnoticed and become extensively infected - the leper may not notice the cut until the infection is severe enough to be visually obvious. This can result in the loss of fingers or toes, or in other visible deformities.**

~ Here's the BIG IDEA...

• **Leprosy was death by inches!**

•In scripture the leper is symbolic of the ultimate outcast.

- Infected by a condition he did not seek.
- Rejected by those he knew
- Avoided by people he did not know.
- Condemned to a future he could not bear

A

•One day, Joe, Bob and Dave were hiking in a wilderness area when they came upon a large, raging, violent river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea of how to do so. Joe prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across the river in about two hours, although he almost drowned a couple of times. Seeing this, Dave prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength and the tools to cross this river." Poof! God gave him a rowboat and he was able to row across the river in about an hour, after almost capsizing the boat a couple of times. Bob had seen how this worked out for the other two, so he also prayed to God saying, "Please God, give me the strength and the tools, and the intelligence, to cross this river." Poof! God turned him into a woman. She looked at the map, hiked upstream a couple of hundred yards, then walked across the bridge.

•**Luke 17:11 As Jesus went to Jerusalem, He passed between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As He entered a village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood at a distance. 13**

B

**They lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" 14 When He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. 15 One of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned with a loud voice glorifying God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus said, "Were not the ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then He said to him, "Rise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." (WHOLE)."**

**Look at your hands...**

•Touch

•Now reach over and touch someone next to you.

•Touch is the first of the senses to develop in the human life (8 Weeks), and it remains perhaps the most emotionally central throughout our lives

•Touch is governed by an exquisite array of receptors that can distinguish minute variations in the external environment.

•Fast, slow? Hard, soft? Hot, cold?

•**Take your band aid and put it on.**

•Some receptors react only to caresses. Some send pain signals. Some tell us that we have an itch. Each type activates a different part of the brain, making us feel soothed or hurt, comfortable or distressed, angry or calm.

**Made Whole**

C

• **Holding hands or giving and receiving hugs on a regular basis can lower blood pressure and calm a racing heartbeat.**

**Tonight I don't want you just to hear his story. I want you to FEEL his story.**

•5 years... I've touched no one.

- I have not been close enough to touch anyone.
- What is common to you, I long for.
- Hand shakes, warm embraces, touch on the shoulder to get my attention. A kiss. I long just to be bumped in to.

**D** They say he cast out evil spirits and even raises the dead.

•It's even been said, He cleansed the Lepers!

• **The Greatest miracle God has ever performed is the one you need!**

•MY Healing!!!

•Get up!!!! Let's give it a try!

Stop **sitting** in your **sorrow!**

• You have to decide- "I NEED to Change!!!

•There's a big difference in **NEED to and WANT to.**

• **People who Need to are desperate and are willing to make what ever noise they have to to get God's attention!**

•Jesus didn't have to see them. He just needed to hear them.

•He didn't see them until they cried out!

•Go- Every **miracle starts with a decision to follow a command!**

•As they went they were cleansed...

•As they were moving.

•Healing is not coming to those sitting in self pity.

In the mind of each outcast must have been the memory of the day he was forced to face the truth:

**Life will never be the same.**

•I'm sure that many of you remember the day when you said- "My Life will never be the same!"

•Divorce

•Tried the drug/took a drink

•Lost your virginity- Possibly pregnant, disease

•Molested- 1in3

•Had the abortion

•Death

**B** •My Diagnosis of my Brain

•His story could have sounded like this...

•Gathering wood. small burn.

•Now losing grip. Cut and didn't know it.

•Final look. 3 year old next to wife.

•She touches my shoulder I touch hers. FINAL TOUCH.

•Now when anyone approaches. UNCLEAN!

•You don't need leprosy to feel isolated, cast out, secluded, or even diseased.

• Ancient people secluded diseased people because they didn't understand the disease.

• Ancient people weren't the only people to isolate their wounded. The church does it every Sunday!

• **What if people had to cry out their infirmity when they came to church?**

•I'm depressed, Lonely, Eating disorder, Cutting, No self esteem, struggle with pornography, Suicide, Addiction

•You're crying out with your actions. You're demeanor.

Made Whole

**C** Only God knows how many are truly **infected and affected** in this room by Spiritual Leprosy.

•Slowly and painfully they are becoming **numb**...

**5 years of leprosy have taken their toll...**

•missing fingers, mangled face. portions of my ear and nose gone.

•I shake my crippled hand to the sky and shout- **WHY ME?!** But, there is no reply.

•**But today. the atmosphere almost feels charged with change.**

•A large group is moving down the street. Some say there is a man. A man who heals the crippled. Gives hearing back to the deaf and restores sight to the blind.

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• It's coming to those who are moving even when they don't see it!

☑ *What do I do next?*

• *After the priest, who do I want to see first. My daughter? My wife?*

- And then, he does something completely unusual.
- He turns back.
- The other 9 are limping their way to the priest.
- He starts limping back to Jesus.

~ Here's the BIG IDEA...

- **You can be healed & not be whole.**

• *Katharidzō- physical stains, cleanse by curing*

• *Sōzō- Nothing missing. Nothing Broken*

- 1st- He gives him back his ability to hurt.
- 2nd- He gives him a reason to take off the bandages.
  - Once you are whole you can't be hurt by your past anymore!
- **People who were far were cleansed.**
- **The one who came close was made whole.**
- **Healing last for a moment, but wholeness lasts a lifetime.**

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