

The Healing and Restoration of the Leper Matthew 8:1-4



Matthew 8:1-4

1 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.”



Breakdown and Teaching

Verse 1

Jesus came down out of the hills, where the Sermon on the Mount had been delivered; the great crowds still followed Him.

Some would have wanted to know more, some just curious, some may have thought He was the Messiah, some wanted to see more miracles.



Breakdown and Teaching

Verse 2

The Bible uses the term Leper to describe a number of skin diseases that were contagious. In Biblical times if people had leprosy they were declared unclean by the Priests.

Leviticus 13:46 says that “As long as the serious disease lasts, they will be ceremonially unclean. They must live in isolation in their place outside the camp”.



Breakdown and Teaching

Verse 2

The text used the word "knelt" before.

Greek word (pros-koo-neh-o) for knelt can also mean "worshipped."

He also used the title "Lord".

Greek word (koo'-ree-os) means Lord, Master, Ruler or one supreme in authority.



Breakdown and Teaching

Verse 3

In verse 3 we read "If you are willing".

The leper had no question about Jesus' healing powers. Jesus only needed to decide and act.



Breakdown and Teaching

Verse 3

Jesus touched the Leper which would make Him ceremonially unclean. But when Jesus' touches something, it cannot remain defiled or unclean.

Both Jesus' words – I am willing - and Jesus' touch are effective in showing the power and authority and healing of God.



Breakdown and Teaching

Verse 4

Jesus' command for the leper to keep quiet and go show himself to the Priests was about allowing the man to be acceptable to the community as a whole again.

Only a Priest could declare them clean and restore them to community life (Lev 14:1-4)



Breakdown and Teaching

Summary

So we see this miracle healing was done by Jesus out of compassion for the Leper, but it also had greater implications for him as a person. He was restored in body, he was restored to family and community life, and he was restored spiritually as he could attend the Temple once more.



Application Points

1. We need to bring our problems to Jesus



Application Points

2. We see just how important restoring people to a community is to Jesus.



Application Points

3. We see that Jesus is a Saviour for all people and didn't treat people like outcastes.




Closing Summary

- That we can bring all our problems to Jesus and He can help us.
- That restoring people community is important to Jesus
- That Jesus is a Saviour for all people and didn't treat people like outcasts



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The Healing and Restoration of the Leper

[Powerpoint for sermon \(PDF\)](#)

The title of my message today is the "The Healing and Restoration of the Leper". It looks at Jesus' amazing interaction with a Leper who approached Him and the result of what happened. This story is found in three of the Gospels - Matthew, Mark and Luke. Today I am going to focus on the Matthew version.


Once I have read the passages I will look at some of the background teachings and contexts, then I will bring out some applications points that we can reflect on for today.

Bible Reading

[Matthew 8:1-4](#)

When he 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 cured 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."

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