

**BE MADE CLEAN!**

Luke 5 presents Jesus the divine healer making a leper clean. It's also a powerful object lesson of being cleansed from sin, something only Christ Jesus can do. Luke records the coming of the kingdom of God, as the divine Son comes healing from disease, demons, sin and death.

In verses 12-13, the wretched outcast, reeking in the stench of his uncleanness obvious to all, came to Jesus. In his pitiable condition, he says, "*Lord, if You will, You can make me clean.*" The compassionate Christ touched the untouchable and instantly transformed his whole life.

**1- ARE YOU WILLING?** The man knew Jesus was divinely able to heal, and he came in faith, asking to be made clean, to be completely restored in every dimension of his life. "*God is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance*" 2Peter 3:9.

"*Why will you die? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord, so turn to Me and live*" Ezekiel 18:32. "*For there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all*" 1Timothy 2:5. "*Yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life*" John 5:40, 3:20,36, Matthew 23:37.

"Who can deliver us from this body of death?" asks JC Ryle. "Thank God that Jesus can. If we are lost it is not because we cannot be saved. However corrupt our lives, or wicked our past, there is help for us in the Gospel. There is no case of leprosy nor sin too hard for Christ."

**2- JESUS IS ABLE!** Wouldn't Jesus become unclean just by touching the leper? Anyone except Jesus would, but He is the divine lawgiver come in the flesh for cleansing wholeness, notes RC Sproul. "*He committed no sin. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed*" 1Peter 2:22-24.

"*He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself*" Hebrews 9:26. "*And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus once for all*" Hebrews 10:9-10. "*The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin*" 1John 1:7. "*For our sake, God made Jesus to be sin, He who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God*" 2Corinthians 5:21. So this believing man was cleansed!

**3- ARE YOU CLEANSED?** In Luke 5:14, Jesus charged him to "*tell no one, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them.*" His healing was instantaneous, but Mosaic law (Leviticus 13-14) required the priest to examine him, and after a waiting period, to pronounce him clean, healed. Then he would be reinstated in the community of worshipers, as cleansed physically, spiritually and socially.

For Christians, this elaborate ritual elicits incredible joy, notes RC Sproul, because it speaks of God's atonement for sin through Christ, and of His power to deliver us. We need this cleansing! "*The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, those who practice homosexuality, thieves, greedy, drunkards, revilers, swindlers, will not inherit the kingdom of God*" says 1Corinthians 6. "*And such were some of you, but you were washed, sanctified, justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Ephesians 2:1-10 explains, "*You were dead in your sins, but made alive in Christ. By grace you have been saved through faith, not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.*" God declares sinners clean in Christ, and empowers us with the Holy Spirit to live out this new spiritual life.

**4- RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST!** Jesus didn't need people pressing Him just for miracles, because He has come to call people to believe in Him through repentance and faith. Luke 5:15-16 says, "*But now even more the report about Him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear Him and to be healed of their infirmities. But He would withdraw to desolate places and pray.*"

Jesus refueled His spiritual power through prayer. Not just talking to God, but listening, receiving spiritual strength from God's Word (Isaiah 50:4-5, Hebrews 5:7-9). We too learn to trust and obey God's Word, then live it out by His power within. "The cause of Christ doesn't need less working, but more workers praying, like the Master, often and much on their knees," says JC Ryle.

Like leprosy, Covid-19 illustrates the helpless state of mankind apart from Christ. Lockdowns, masks, mRNA, vax cannot cure. Sinners need the divine touch of the Lord Jesus Christ! □