

SERIES	SEEN
BIBLE	MARK 1:40-45
TITLE	JESUS SEES WHAT KEEPS ME FROM HIM
OVERVIEW	<p>People have many complex reasons for struggling to connect with God. The hurts of life keep people from believing God wants them or accepts them, or even cares. But one of the names God gave us for Himself is “the One who sees me”. (Genesis 16:13).</p> <p>Jesus, God in human flesh, sees us in our pain, our doubts, and disappointments and offers His healing. Jesus sees the battles we cannot win, the things we cannot defeat, the ways people have hurt us, and He offers us His freedom.</p>
SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN	<p>MARK 1:40 [40] And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE LIES WE BELIEVE KEEP US FROM JESUS</p> <p>A leper was “unclean” and it was illegal for them to be around clean people. In fact they would have to yell out as they walked around to inform others nearby, “unclean, unclean!” How embarrassing and shameful this must have felt. Too many times we feel like we cannot come to God because we know we are unclean. We have sinned in so many ways that shame and guilt have convinced us that God would not accept us. But this leper was at a point of desperation. It says he <i>implored Jesus</i>, this means he begged Jesus and actually knelt down in front of Him! What lead him to do this? He probably heard about this man named Jesus who was doing miracles and healing people, even on the sabbath! This little spark of faith brought him to the feet of Jesus with a desperate plea rooted in one belief, Jesus can if He wills.</p> <p>MARK 1:41-42 [41] Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” [42] And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO ONE IS TOO UNCLEAN FOR JESUS</p> <p>Jesus could have sent him away, in public fashion, furthering this man’s shame. But He didn’t! He allowed this man to come to Him.</p> <p>This shows the truth about who Jesus is! He’s not scared of your sin, or your past! He’s actually the opposite! He CARES! It says Jesus was moved with pity and did the unthinkable... he stretched out His hand and touched the leper!!</p> <p>This simple act would have actually made Jesus unclean according to the customs of the people. But that didn’t happen either!</p>

Jesus says these words that I'm sure that leper would have never forgotten... I will; be clean. In essence Jesus is responding to the lepers earlier request, Jesus if you will it I know you can do it... Jesus responds I can and I want to! AND He heals him right on the spot!

The lies that had kept someone like a leper from coming to Jesus because they were undoubtedly unclean were d'bunked in this very moment when Jesus didn't cast Him away but actually touched him... how long had it been since the leper had any physical affection from anyone?!

Some of us are paralyzed by a lie that Jesus won't. But we are desperate for a healing we can't do ourselves. There is no one that is too unclean for Jesus.

MARK 1:43-45

[43] And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, [44] and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." [45] But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

JESUS CLEANSED THE MAN BUT ALSO RESTORED HIS NAME

After Jesus cleanses the man He sends him on a specific task. Go to the priest and offer for your cleansing. This was something needed to be done according to Moses to bring the once leprosy stricken man back into a restored status.

This would have not only healed the man from the very thing that brought him rejection and shame, but also opened the world to him of restored possibilities. It brought him back into community with others, and allowed him to work for wealth and build a legacy. Jesus not only did what the man asked for, He did MORE!

GOSPEL

What Jesus did for the man with leprosy is a great example of what Jesus did for us! It's a picture of the Gospel! We were once stricken with sin, sin always promotes shame, so we are unbelieving that God would want us. The Bible says that even when we were still sinners Christ died for us!

Jesus isn't intimidated by our sin and shame, in fact, He desires that you have a right relationship with Him. One that restores what our sin has taken away.

1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus shows on Calvary that He is willing and that He is the only one who is able to see you truly.

NEXTSTEPS

1. Take the posture of the leper. Surrender to Jesus what has kept you from Him. Seek His salvation in Christ alone.
 2. Seek to grow your faith by learning what it means to follow Jesus, find a mentor and start on the blue book.
 3. Share with someone how God has cleansed you and restored you! Someone will come and find Jesus because of your testimony!
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