

The Chosen Part 3: Jesus Cleanses a Leper

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Key Points:

- In the Biblical context, a diagnosis with leprosy was an incurable, long-term death sentence. Lepers were banished from the community and treated as untouchables.
- Just like leprosy, sin starts with small spots that are hardly noticeable, but grows and spreads to destroy your health and wellbeing in all areas of life.
- Jesus paid the price both to heal our physical infirmities and to cleanse us from our sins that would lead to physical and spiritual death.
- Jesus loved the outcast and untouchable, and so should we!
- Don't be so busy on your way through life that you miss the invitations God wants you to extend, and the people God wants to touch with His love through you.
- If you are feeling like an outsider, Jesus has a place prepared for you! Please don't excuse or exclude yourself on the basis of what you have done.

Main Scripture Reference(s):

- Matthew 8, Mark 1, Luke 5:12-16, Leviticus 13:45-46, Leviticus 14:1-7, 1 John 4:18

Discussion Questions:

1. What conditions or traits are seen as "untouchable" in your current cultural context?

What interactions do you have with them? What interactions *could* you have with them if you were to intentionally reach out to them with Christ-like love?

2. How can you personally be welcoming towards people who are socially ostracized, impacted by debilitating conditions that would make many people consider them "untouchable"? How can we create a welcoming environment for outcasts within our church community?
3. What areas of your own heart are still impacted by shame for what you have done in the past? Do these areas cause you to hesitate to come into God's presence to worship Him? Do you ever sense that you are guarding certain areas of your heart out of fear that people would reject you if they knew your past wounds or actions?

Reacknowledge the truth that Jesus died to heal and cleanse every aspect of who you are and every part of your story. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring freedom and release you from fear and wash away any remnant of shame in these areas.