"I Will; Be Clean"
Mark 1:39-45

The most important "healing" the Master will perform

Leprosy is like nothing else;

John 9:2

2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Leprosy was without exception equated with judgment upon sin; *whether the sin was known or unknown;*

Numbers 12:9–12

9 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and he departed. 10 When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous. 11 And Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. 12 Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb."

2 Chronicles 26:19, 21

19 Then Uzziah was angry. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and *when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead* in the presence of the priests in the house of the Lord, by the altar of incense…21 And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and being a leper lived in a separate house, for he was excluded from the house of the Lord…

The moral significance of leprosy;

Ephesians 2:1–3

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Romans 3:10–12

10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

The harsh and unique measures to deal with the leper;

Leviticus 13:45–46

45 "The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' 46 He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp."

Psalm 31:22

22 I had said in my alarm, "I am cut off from your sight." But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy when I cried to you for help.

Mark 14:3

3 And while he was at Bethany in the house of *Simon the leper…*

The only other ritual defilement on par with leprosy: *contact with a corpse;*

Numbers 19:11

11 "Whoever touches the dead body of any person shall be unclean seven days.

NUMBERS 12:12
12 *Let her (Miriam) not be as one dead*, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb."
No other condition was such a clear manifestation of the sinful human condition as was leprosy. The severe treatment of the leper prescribed by God was for the purpose of separating sinfulness, not an infectious disease.

The claim to deity: *Leprosy was more than a disease; it was a sentence from God. Jesus undoes the sentence.*

The faith of a hopeless man

The bold nature of the leper's faith;

LUKE 5:12
12 …there came a man *full of leprosy*. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "*Lord*, if you will, you can make me clean."

HEBREWS 11:6
6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he *rewards those who seek him.*

LUKE 12:32
32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

HEBREWS 4:16
16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The strong implication of the encounter: *Jesus proclaims Himself Lord of the Law;*

LUKE 17:12
12 …he was met by ten lepers, *who stood at a distance.*

MARK 2:28
28 "So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

MATTHEW 5:17
17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them…

ROMANS 10:4
4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

The limitless power of the Master: *No uncleanness can stand in the presence of a Savior who declares, "I am willing. Be clean."*

The limitless compassion of the Master: *The Savior has already told us He is willing;*

MATTHEW 11:28
28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

JOHN 6:37 (KJV)
37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

REVELATION 21:6
6 …To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

ISAIAH 55:1
1 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

JOHN 7:37
37 …Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."

The preciousness of the Master: *For Him to be precious, you must be the leper;*

> *"'Till sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet."* —**Thomas Watson**
>
> *"The deeper our thoughts are of the odiousness of sin, the deeper our comfort and joy in Christ will be after."*—**Richard Sibbes**

The gospel in the sacrifices;

LEVITICUS 14:6–7

6 He shall take the live bird with the cedarwood and the scarlet yarn and the hyssop, and *dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird that was killed* over the fresh water. 7 …Then he shall pronounce him clean and shall *let the living bird go into the open field.*

The stern command to silence, and the disobedience of the former leper

An exchange of positions;

HEBREWS 13:12–13 (See also; Isaiah 53:11-12)

12 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. 13 Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, *that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

A powerful motivator to godliness: *Jesus in our place;*

1 PETER 1:18–19

18 *knowing that you were ransomed* from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 *but with the precious blood of Christ,* like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

HEBREWS 6:6

6 …then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, *since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.*

It is not our place to judge the command. It is our place to obey it;

LUKE 6:46

46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

Unbridled, undirected zeal for God does serve a kingdom—just not the kingdom of God;

ROMANS 10:2

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:27

27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.