

You Can Be Clean

Deuteronomy 24:1-13; Matthew 8:1-4 / Psalm 33:1-22

I. Jesus Captured the Popular Imagination

- A. Large numbers of people took an interest in Jesus' ministry. When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. (Matthew 8:1)
- B. Jesus constantly displayed compassion for suffering people. And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (Matthew 15:30)
- C. Many people witnessed the miracles of Jesus. But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. (Luke 5:15)
- D. Even the sharp edges of the gospel failed to drive people away from one holding out hope to the hopeless. And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:25-27)
- E. As Jesus grew demanding, even more unlikely people began to pay attention. Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. (Luke 15:1)

II. Jesus Provided Hope

- A. Faith found a way to Jesus. And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. (Matthew 8:2)
- B. Faith is the starting point. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:6) along with For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. (Hebrews 4:2)
- C. Failure of faith is deadly. Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (Hebrews 3:12)
- D. Jesus did the humanly impossible; He restored the leper. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. (Matthew 8:3)
- E. God gets things done. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. (Psalm 33:9)

III. With God All Things Are Possible

A. Leprosy was an exclusionary disease and people were not left to their own preferences in its management. When a man shall have in the skin of his flesh a rising, a scab, or bright spot, and it be in the skin of his flesh like the plague of leprosy; then he shall be brought unto Aaron the priest, or unto one of his sons the priests: (Leviticus

13:2) See Leviticus 13 and 14

1. In the ancient world the disease was virtually incurable. And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me. (2 Kings 5:7)

2. Scripture strictly regulated leprosy management. Take heed in the plague of leprosy, that thou observe diligently, and do according to all that the priests the Levites shall teach you: as I commanded them, so ye shall observe to do. (Deuteronomy 24:8)

B. Jesus healed the leper. And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. (Matthew 8:4) along with This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his

cleansing: He shall be brought unto the priest: (Leviticus 14:2)

C. God does the impossible with the soul just as He can with the body. Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:16-18)

D. People have limits but God does not. And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. (Mark 10:27)

E. Consider the possibilities when Christ removes impossible barriers. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:13)

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