

“Jesus Can Make You Clean”

Luke 5:12-16

Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. The title of my sermon today is “Jesus Can Make You Clean.”
 - 1. It’s taken from the text in verse 12, “Lord if you are willing, You can make me clean”
 - 2. How does Jesus make you clean?
 - a) He forgives your sins (v. 20)
 - 3. It’s pictured in Christ’s miracle of the cleansing of a leper
 - a) This miracle is also recorded in Mark 1 and Matthew 8
 - b) The story paints a picture of how Jesus is willing and able to cleanse us from sin, restore us, and make us whole
 - c) Leprosy in Scripture is a picture of the uncleanness of sin
 - d) God alone has the power to cleanse us from sin
 - 4. There are four movements in our story:

II. The Dreaded Disease (Luke 5:12a)

- A. The setting (v. 12)
 - 1. “In a certain city”
 - 2. He was coming down from the mountain (Matthew 8:1)
- B. The sickness
 - 1. “Behold a man full of leprosy” (v. 12)
 - 2. Leprosy was the most dreaded disease in the ancient world
 - 3. For Jews (Leviticus 13 & 14)
 - 4. The person with leprosy was an outcast
 - 5. Barred from family, friends, and the temple
 - 6. The synagogue and the city
 - a) Illustration- The rabbis taught 6 feet away, and if the wind was blowing in his direction, they would stand 100 feet away
 - b) They had to cry “unclean”
 - c) It was a living death
 - d) A picture of sin

III. The Desperate Victim (Luke 5:12b)

- A. He came out of an awareness of need (v. 12)
 - 1. He knew he was unclean
 - 2. He was without hope
 - 3. We are unclean sinners before a holy God
 - 4. “All have sinned...”
 - 5. Come “poor in spirit” (Matthew 5)
- B. He came with reverence
 - 1. “Who seeing Jesus fell on his face” (v. 12)
 - 2. “Worshipped Him” (Matthew 8:2)

- C. He came in humble submission
 - 1. "...and besought him saying Lord if you will..." (v. 12)
 - 2. He humbly submitted to Christ as the only possible source of healing
- D. He came in confident faith
 - 1. "...you can make me clean" (v. 12)
 - 2. We must come in faith believing that He is...
 - 3. He had perhaps seen or heard what Jesus had done for others
- E. He came as He was—unclean
 - 1. Come to Jesus as you are
 - 2. No one is too unclean
 - 3. No one is too bad, and no one is too good not to need to come
 - 4. Come to Jesus

IV. The Divine Compassion (Luke 5:13)

- A. Jesus touched him (v. 13)
 - 1. Jesus could have healed him with a word
 - 2. But Jesus lovingly, graciously, compassionately touched him
 - 3. Why?
 - a) The text doesn't say
 - 4. The word "touched" expresses more than a superficial touch. It's often translated "to take hold of"
 - 5. Perhaps Jesus wanted him to feel his sympathy and compassion
 - a) Illustration- One reason for the incarnation
 - b) Illustration- (John 1:18)
- B. Jesus spoke to him
 - 1. "I will: be thou clean..." (v. 13)
 - 2. The word of assurance
 - 3. Rest in God's Word
 - 4. God has promised to forgive you
- C. Jesus immediately cleansed him
 - 1. "And immediately the leprosy departed from him" (v. 13)
 - 2. It was forbidden to touch a Leper
 - 3. Salvation happens immediately, and it's complete
 - a) "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7)

V. The Definite Command (Luke 5:14-16)

- A. A practical reason
 - 1. The witness to the Priest (Leviticus 14)
- B. A prophetic reason
 - 1. The Messiah was here
 - 2. Illustration- John the Baptist in prison
- C. A pictorial reason
 - 1. A picture of the cross (Leviticus 14)
 - 2. Jesus is also our pattern of touching the untouchable

VI. Conclusion

- A. Come with a deep awareness of sin
- B. Come with reverence and humility
- C. Come just as you are
- D. Come in faith, believing in the gospel