

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. How should we get along with those who don't agree with our ideas like wearing or not wearing a mask in today's pandemic?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Please read Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; and Luke 5:12-16. What's different in these passages?
3. What is leprosy? Look up a definition. Leprosy is mentioned 68 times in the bible. 55 times in the Old Testament and 13 times in the New Testament.
4. According to Leviticus 13:1-3, who were the public health officers? What was their job?
5. According to Leviticus 13:45-46, what must a person do if they have leprosy? Compare it with Numbers 5:2.
6. If you had leprosy...You had to be quarantined for seven days to see if it got worse. When you got out of quarantine, you had to wear torn clothes to signify your skin condition. You couldn't shave your beard or cut your hair. You had to cover the lowest part of your face. Anytime people came near you, you had to shout out "unclean", "unclean", to protect others from leprosy. You had to stay a minimum of six feet from others. How does this relate to our current circumstances?
7. The original Greek language of Mark 1:40, says this, "And there comes to Him a leper, begging Him and kneeling, saying to Him, If you are willing, you have power to cleanse me." What do you see in this verse?
 - Do you think Jesus was aware of the Mosaic Law?
 - Do you think this leper believed Jesus could heal him?

8. What does Mark 1:41 say? Please read in different versions. You have to remember that the bible was passed on by scribes. Sometimes one scribe spelled a word differently on his manuscript, while another might have accidentally skipped or repeated some of the text he was copying. These cases are minor variants and don't really change the meaning of the text. Other times, however, scribes added to or even changed text to clarify a passage or suit the theological preferences of their communities. That's when things get interesting, and this passage in the Gospel of Mark offers an especially intriguing example. What do you think each word means?

9. According to John 13:35, how are Christians identified? Compare with 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. What do these verses say to you? How does it relate to our current world?

10. According to Mark 1:43-44, what did Jesus want the leper to do? Please read Leviticus 14. Put yourself in the shoes of the leper. What would your day look like in Leviticus 14?

11. Did the leper obey Jesus? According to Mark 1:45, what was the consequence?

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- You should get alone to meet with your Savior!
- Find an isolated place to pray and read scripture.
- This is the essence of the grace of God. God is moved to touch us, even though we have spiritual leprosy. His emotion to love us is greater than any reason why He shouldn't.
- You are most like Christ when you love someone that everyone else rejects.
 - You love the backstabber.
 - You love the hater.
 - You love the liar.
 - You love the sinner.
- Christians should not get swept up into the drama and divisiveness of this world.
 - Christians are to love everyone.
 - We are not of this world.
 - We are citizens of heaven.
 - We've always known we're passing through.