

# The Miracles of Jesus

## Lesson Nine

### A Leper Cleansed

Text: Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16

#### Introduction:

1. Mark 1:35-39 – Following a busy day of healing the sick, Jesus found a place of solitude to pray.
2. Though the people begged Him to stay with them, Jesus had work to do in other towns.
3. So, Jesus preached in other cities throughout Galilee.
4. In Matthew’s account of the Gospel, this miracle is recorded immediately following the Sermon on the Mount.
5. This is not when it occurred chronologically, but is placed there to emphasize Jesus’ authority in the sermon just recorded.

#### I. The Miracle

- A. The actual miracle is quite simple – Jesus touched a leper, spoke the word, and healed him of his disease.
- B. However, the lessons learned are profound and significant.

#### II. The Manifestation

- A. This miracle demonstrated Jesus’ power over disease.
- B. This miracle demonstrated Jesus’ authority (cf. Sermon on the Mount).
- C. This miracle demonstrated Jesus’ compassion (Mark 1:40-41).
- D. This miracle demonstrated Jesus’ uniqueness (Mark 1:44-45).

#### III. The Message

- A. The disease of leprosy
  1. Begins small, but spreads extensively
  2. Rots one from the inside out
  3. Separates one from society – “*unclean*” (Leviticus 13:45; Numbers 5:2)
  4. There was no human cure for this contagious disease.
  5. Results in death
- B. Leprosy as a type of sin
  1. Often begins small, but spreads (cf. 2 Timothy 3:13; 1 Corinthians 15:33)
  2. Begins in the heart but manifests outwardly (Matthew 5:27-28)
  3. Separates one from God (Isaiah 59:1-2; 2 Pet. 2:4; 1 Cor. 5:2; Rev. 21:8)
  4. There is no human cure (Ephesians 2:8-9)
  5. Results in death (Romans 6:23)
- C. The curing of leprosy as a type of salvation from sin
  1. The leper came to Jesus.

2. The leper came with awareness of his need.
  3. The leper came in humility (“fell on his face” Luke 5:12). (Cf. Naaman)
  4. The leper came in faith (“If thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.”).
  5. The leper was cleansed by grace (love of Jesus) through faith.
- D. Consider the importance of the words “and touched him.”
1. Fellowship (1 John 1:6-7)
  2. Friendship (Romans 5:6-10)
  3. Family (Luke 15:18-24)
- E. Consider Jesus’ command for the leper to go to the priest (cf. Leviticus 14:1-3).
1. Jesus lived under and was faithful to the Law of Moses.
  2. He came not to destroy, but to fulfill the Law (Matthew 5:17).
- F. Consider the leper’s response to his cleansing.
1. In his excitement, joy and gratitude, he began to tell everyone about Jesus.
  2. Mark says he began to “publish it much;” meaning, “to herald, proclaim, preach with gravity and authority.”
  3. He began to “blaze abroad” this good news, meaning, “to spread abroad.” *{It comes from the root from which we get the word “fame.” He wanted to make Jesus famous!}*
  4. He did such a good job of it that Jesus had to avoid the towns and cities!
  5. What is our response to being healed of sin?