

**Mark 1:40-45 — "The Hopeless Leper Healed By The Compassionate Savior!"****Leprosy**

Leprosy was the scourge of the ancient world. Nothing evoked more fear, more dread, or more revulsion than the sight of these walking dead. That is what a leper was called, a walking dead man. The smell of his decaying flesh would announce his coming long before the tattered scraps of his clothing would be seen, or his raspy "Unclean! Unclean!" announcement he was required to declare, could be heard. The stumbling shuffle of toeless feet, the wandering of sightless eyes and the moan of a cheekless mouth, all pointed to Leprosy, this unseen attacker that slowly destroyed human bodies, and made the individual an untouchable to society.

The great Jewish culture scholar, Edersheim, says the disease which we today call leprosy generally begins with pain in certain areas of the body. Numbness follows. Soon the skin in such spots loses its original color. It gets to be thick, glossy, and scaly. ...As the sickness progresses, the thickened spots become dirty sores and ulcers due to poor blood supply. The skin, especially around the eyes and ears, begins to bunch, with deep furrows between the swellings, so that the face of the afflicted individual begins to resemble that of a lion. Fingers drop off or are absorbed; toes are affected similarly. His throat becomes hoarse, and you can now not only see, feel, and smell the leper, but you can hear his rasping voice. And if you stay with him for some time, you can even imagine a peculiar taste in your mouth, probably due to the odor.

**THESIS — In Mark 1, we'll see that Jesus is "moved with compassion" toward the worst of the worst.**

**I. LEPROSY: THE HOPELESS DISEASE (40)**

- He knew how terrible his problem was **yet** he came!
- He knew most everyone thought his condition was hopeless **yet** he came!
- He had no one who would or could take him to Jesus **yet** he came!
- He had no previous example of Jesus healing a leper to give him hope **yet** he came!
- He had no promise that Jesus would heal him **yet** he came!
- He had no invitation from Jesus or the disciples **yet** he came!
- He must have felt ashamed and alone in the crowd **yet** he came!

**II. JESUS: THE COMPASSIONATE FRIEND (41)****III. HEALING: THE IMMEDIATE CLEANSING (42)****IV. SCRIPTURE: THE INEVITABLE AFTERMATH (43-45)**

Leprosy is the disease under the sin; *similar to sin: it kills from within.*

★**Ugly** - leprosy is ugly; sin is uglier still!

★**Loathsome** - leprosy is loathsome in people's eyes; sin is loathsome in God's eyes!

★**Incurable** - leprosy is incurable; sin is incurable still!

★**Contaminating** - leprosy contaminates; sin contaminates one's body, soul, mind

★**Internal** - leprosy is internal & affects the visible body; so sin is internal & affects the body.

★**Deadly** - leprosy is deadly & kills. Sin is deadly & kills eternally.

★**Increasing** - leprosy can increase & spread; sin increases & spreads as well.

★**Unclean** - leprosy is rendered unclean; sin is infinitely more unclean.

★**Rejected** - lepers are rejected by people; sin is rejected by God forevermore!

We are never more precious in God's eyes—than when we are LEPERS in our own eyes! The more bitterness we taste in sin—the more sweetness we shall taste in Christ! (Thomas Watson)

There is no case of spiritual leprosy too hard for Christ (JC Ryle).

### **JESUS PAID IT ALL**

I hear the Savior say,  
"Thy strength indeed is small;  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
Find in Me thine all in all."

**Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.**

For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim,  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

And now complete in Him  
My robe His righteousness,  
Close sheltered 'neath His side,  
I am divinely blest.

Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy power and Thine alone,  
Can change the leper's spots  
And melt the heart of stone.

And when before the throne  
I stand in Him complete,  
"Jesus died my soul to save!"  
My lips shall still repeat!

### **LO! A LEPER ALL IMPURE!** [Tune: *Man of Sorrows*]

Lo, a leper all impure,  
To the great Redeemer came;  
Earnestly he sought a cure,  
Trusting in his holy name.

Lowly at the Saviour's feet,  
See he worships and adores;  
Jesus now his case to meet,  
Him to health again restores.

Lord, a leper I am found,  
Heal, oh heal my dread disease;  
Make me whole and keep me sound,  
Speak the word and give me peace.

I'm polluted, all unclean,  
Full of wounds and inward sores;  
In this state my heart has been,  
Mercy, Lord, my souls implores.

Cleanse the leper at thy feet,  
From the dust thy servant raise;  
Wilt thou but my wishes meet,  
Thou alone shalt have the praise.