

Jesus Heals the Leper (Matthew 8:1-4)

- Matt 8:1-4 takes place just after Jesus has given His sermon on the mount
- Jesus' healing of the leper: practical picture of His teaching of beatitudes
- Leprosy was a broad category under which many skin conditions fell
- Hansen's disease – is common name for leprosy, no feeling, nerve damage
- Great damage to extremities, heat – burning, wounds would fest & rot
- The lot of the leper is well defined and described in Lev 13:45,46
- Lepers: subject to isolation, ostracization & ridiculous rabbinical laws
- Many concluded – leprosy was the result of personal sin (2 Chron 26:19)

I. Pleading for a Healing Touch from Christ (8:1,2)

- Leper cried '*unclean, unclean*' as he made his way to Jesus: crowd cleared
- Leper worships, falls prostrate before Jesus (Luke 5:12) fell on his face
- He pleaded "Lord if you are willing"; Mark (1:40) pleading several times

II. Receiving the Healing Touch of Christ (v. 3)

- Mark 1: 41 says that Jesus was moved with compassion, He felt for him.
- The climax: Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man
- According to Jewish law nobody was to come within 6 ft of the man
- Greek word: Jesus took hold of the man, at the very least, He held firmly
- Jesus could have just spoken a word, but He chose to touch him
- The healing was not gradual but dramatic, the man was healed instantly
- God made Him who knew no sin to become sin for us...