

RCMI L-Path Teaching

January 10, 2021

(English)

Sunday Theme: **Year of Fruitful Intimacy (Moments with the Master)**

Big Idea: **Fruitfulness and faithfulness should come from a heart that is intimate with Christ.**

Today's Topic: **A Transforming Moment**

Scripture Text: **Mark 1:40-45**

⁴⁰*A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."*

⁴¹*Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"*

⁴²*Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. ⁴³Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning:*

⁴⁴*"See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.*

Introduction:

- Paul expresses that intimacy with Christ should be the most earnest desire of every Christian.
- He said in Philippians 3:10, "All I want is to know Christ."
- The knowledge of Christ Paul sought was not something mystical.
- Paul wasn't longing for some secret knowledge of Christ beyond what is revealed in Scripture.
- He wasn't asking that private messages from Christ be whispered into his ear.
- We err greatly if we think of intimacy with Christ as some kind of mysterious, feelings-based communion with the Divine.
- Intimacy with Christ does not involve some knowledge of God that goes beyond what Scripture has revealed. That idea is the very heart of the gnostic heresy.
- Our text today suggests at least four (4) biblical aspects of true intimacy with Christ:
- This account is recorded in Matthew 8:1:4 and Luke 5:12:16.
- Leprosy is common in Israel according to Luke 4:27, *"There were many lepers in Israel."*
- Luke 17, Jesus healed 10 lepers. Mark 14:3, he was in the house of Simon the Leper / alabaster jar story
- Leprosy is skin disease shown by a scaly fashion, known today as Hansen's disease.
- The bacteria attack the nerves in the skin and below the skin that feeling disappears.
- The disease becomes systemic, causes the bones to shrivel, and causes the extremities to shrivel.
- The victims are usually dying because they had no resistance to other diseases.
- The disease is communicable through inhaling or by bodily contact.
- Most medical historians believe that leprosy originated in Egypt
- The interesting reason for that is that the bacteria for that disease is found in a mummy from Egypt.

I. The Intimacy of Faith (v. 40a)

^{40a}*A man with leprosy came to him"*

- All true intimacy with Christ has its basis in faith.
- No relationship and intimacy with Him is possible apart from faith (Hebrews 1:1).
- Lepers are outcast. They are labeled as unclean.
- According to Lev. 13, they had to say, "Unclean! Unclean! Unclean!" everywhere they went.
- They did this in order to give people warnings.
- In Israel, they were barred from the city of Jerusalem altogether and all walled cities.

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- Ang social distancing ay 6 ft kapag upwind at 150 ft. kapag downwind.
- The man's body was covered with leprosy according to Luke 5:12. It was visible, ugly, frightening.
- The fact that he came to Jesus is a shock. He's not supposed to do that.
- Outcasts were forbidden to come near anyone but faith allows anyone to come near to God.

II. The Intimacy of Worship (v. 40b)

^{40b}*and begged him on his knees*"

- Worship is not acts of religious ritual like sacrifices, burnt offerings, and other ceremonies.
- Worship is grounded in the true knowledge of God.
- The very essence of idolatry consists in wrong thoughts about God.
- The true knowledge of God means knowing Him as He is revealed in Scripture.
- Right thinking about God is therefore essential to true intimacy with Him.
- We should not seek some mystical knowledge about God.
- The leper came to Jesus, violated all necessary protocols
- He came to Jesus, begging Him with strong pleas, showing his desperation.
- His attitude was humble and respectful. He was falling on his knees before Him.
- Matthew says worshipping, *proskuneō*, a verb that is always referring to worship of God.
- He had a worshipful attitude, a respectful, reverent, humble attitude.
- Luke says he fell on his face. He not only went on his knees, he went down on his face.
- He flattened himself in humble adoration before Jesus.

III. The Intimacy of Prayer (v. 40c)

^{40c}*If you are willing, you can make me clean.*"

- Prayer is where the worshiper pours out his heart to God.
- Jesus Himself stressed the importance of private prayer. (Matthew 6:6)
- The true Christian seeking intimacy with God will pray most often, and most fervently, in private.
- The true audience of all our prayers is God Himself.
- The leper was willing to risk the shame and the embarrassment
- That's how desperate he was and that's how confident he was in the power of Jesus.
- Prayer is having great confidence in Jesus' power to heal him.
- "If you are willing, you can make me clean." He had no doubt about Jesus' power.
- He pleads for what he needs: cleansing.
- A little footnote. The Bible talks about cleansing with regard to leprosy, never healing.

IV. The Intimacy of Obedience (vv. 41-45)

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⁴⁴*"See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."* ⁴⁵*Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.*

- Jesus said, "You are my intimate friends when you obey all that I command you." (John 14:4 TPT)
- Obedience is the common failure of every Christian.
- Mark's favorite word - "Immediately" (on the spot, at that moment)
- What is the first test when Christ has invaded your life? Obedience.

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- The Lord gives him two commands, a negative one and a positive one.
- The positive is “Go show yourself to the priest.”
- The negative is, “Don’t tell anybody,”
- Christ has “immediate” (kaagad). The leper has “instead” (sa halip)
- The leper failed to obey.