

Leprosy

- During ancient biblical times there was a loathsome disease called leprosy of which there was no known cure.
- It was an uncontrollable, slowly growing disease that would cause swollen lumps on the skin and ulcerous scabs all over the body.
- There was a numbness sensation that caused the leper to scratch himself, and damage his body unknowingly.
- A leprous person would look scaly and very deformed, their hair and body was noticeably white and therefore they were easy to identify.
- Their bodies would rot, body parts would deform, and fingers and toes and sometimes feet would fall off.
- The leper would drag himself along and his voice would often sound like a dog growling or howling in pain.
- The only hope and rest for the leper was death.
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Leprosy



He Touched Me

Mathew 8:1-4

He Touched Me

1. When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.

Request

2. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are **willing**, you can make me clean.”

Response

3. Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “**I am willing**,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

Requirement

4. Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

Matthew 8: 1-4

What do we learn about Jesus?

1. When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.
2. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are **willing**, you can make me clean."
3. Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "**I am willing**," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.
4. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Engaging

Approachable

Willingness

Strategy

Matthew 8: 1-4

How About Me ?

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How Approachable Am I?

How Willing AM I?

Requirement

Matthew 8: 1-4

He Touched Me

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Willingness

1. to view “**social outcasts**” from a radical different perspective.
2. to “**step outside**” one’s comfort zone.
3. to “**identify**” with and “**met**” their needs



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He Touched Me

- Shackled by a heavy burden,
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.
- *He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole*
- Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since He cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise Him,
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.

Gaither Vocal Band

- "

Leprosy

1. In biblical times lepers were considered unclean, and they were forced to separate themselves from the public.
2. The mere touch of a leper brought uncleanness, and breathing the same air of a leper was believed to be dangerous.
3. When someone was pronounced "leprous" they were looked upon as dead and cast out of society to dwell in a special place or colony in the wilderness, living in caves or tents.
4. In ancient Israel lepers were commanded to wear certain clothes, keep themselves a certain distance from people, wear special bells, and they had to cry "**unclean -unclean**" if someone was too close (Lev 13:45).----- nor could he speak to any one, or receive or return a salutation, since in the East this involves an embrace."
5. The rabbis viewed leprosy as a chastisement from God because of moral issues.

