



A Leper Cleansed

Matthew 8:1-4

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Crayons/Markers
- ✓ Optional: Photo Illustrations
(these are graphic and may not be appropriate for some ages)
- ✓ Rag to hold over mouth
- ✓ Copies of word search
- ✓ Copies of coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of take home overview



A Leper Cleansed

Objective of Lesson

Show how leprosy pictures sin and how God uses that illustration to teach us about who we are and who Christ is and how He saves His people from their sins.

Scripture Reference

Matthew 8: When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Lesson Instructions

1. I heard a sermon recently and decided this would make a perfect topic for our Sunday School Class. Today's lesson is about A Leper Cleansed. How many of you in here have heard of leprosy? In this day and age someone with the illness of leprosy is very rare. In other countries where there is no access to medical help or clean drinking water you still see cases of it. It is a disease of the blood. A spot comes up - not a big spot - a little spot. You go to the



doctor and he says, "You have leprosy". You don't look unclean but oh, by the time your disease is in your blood your whole body is doomed to rot away. The whole man is unclean. They call leprosy "walking dead." They are dead while they are alive. It eats away your fingers and toes. Your flesh smells like rotting flesh with a horrible stink. By the time the disease is in its full stages the person with the illness doesn't even look human anymore. All those horrible images you are imagining in your head right now? (We have included some photos of leprosy in this lesson packet. These photo illustrations are graphic even for adults and can be very scary to children. However they are available to use if you deem it appropriate. Or you may tell the children to ask their parents to show them photos on the internet.) That is what God says our sin looks like. Anytime you see leprosy talked about in the Bible it represents sin and sinners. Leprosy is a picture God uses for us to see how awful sin really is. Because we can't see our sin, He uses this disease so we can SEE with our eyes how horrible sin really is. Remember when God made Adam and Eve, they Bible says bore the image of God? The Bible tells us when they sinned, we all lost that image. That image of God is no longer recognizable. Just like leprosy, our sin makes us unrecognizable as the image of God anymore. We are nothing but rotting, stinking, walking dead men, and we need a miracle! We need a healer! Who gives miracles and can heal? God can.

2. In our story of this leper today we are going to talk about how our Lord Jesus does just that. He cleansed this man of his leprosy. Listen to this story carefully because at the end I want us to discuss how this pictures Christ and His work of saving sinners.
3. The Old Testament talks about leprosy. It was a much feared and dreaded disease in those days. It was so dreadful that our Lord in heaven set up a rule, a law, among His people about anybody who had leprosy. If they found a spot or blemish on their skin they would go to the high priest. That high priest would tell them if they had leprosy or not. If they HAD leprosy, they



were required to gather all their belongings and leave their families and go live outside the camp. They were not allowed to mingle with the people. They also had to hold a rag or cloth over their mouth like this (hold up a cloth) and if they saw anybody come near them they had to yell in a loud voice to warn passers-by that they had leprosy. They had to yell, "UNCLEAN! UNCLEAN!" The law of God required it. There was no way around it. That man had to yell, "unclean, unclean!" and stay away from everybody! (Leviticus 13: 45-46)

4. Leprosy is very contagious. If a person with leprosy came and just put their hand on a door to a house, the law said they had to burn the entire house to the ground. Everything they touched they defiled and made unclean. Once a person contracted leprosy their chances of being healed were almost none. They went outside the camp and that is where most of them died.
5. That rag that leper had to hold over his mouth is an interesting picture. Does that remind you of another verse we have gone over in the past? Do you remember the lesson on filthy rags? Do you remember that verse? (Isaiah 64:6) All our good deeds (hold the rag up and wave it in the air) are as filthy rags! Aha! Now you know what that verse is talking about! He is talking about the rag that the dirty, stinking, rotting leper held over his mouth! Wow, what a vivid picture of our sin before our God.
6. In our story our Lord Jesus had just stood up on a mountain and taught the people. There was a HUGE crowd of people here listening to our Lord speak and preach - thousands of people. Our Lord was coming down from the mountain with that great crowd of people and there was this leper walking RIGHT UP in the middle of that crowd. Can you imagine!!? The law of God said he wasn't even suppose to be there! This horrible sick man with that dirty rag over his mouth coming through that crowd of people! You know he had to be yelling, "UNCLEAN! UNCLEAN!" I bet that crowd of people couldn't get out of that man's way fast enough. The Bible tells us this man was FULL of leprosy. That means the disease was in its final stages. This man didn't even look human anymore! Nobody would dare touch him for fear of

becoming unclean themselves. Here this man comes to our Lord, and he kneeled down (kneel down) and he worshiped (bow your head) the Lord and said, "Lord if you will, you can make me clean." Our Lord looked at him and said, "I will; be thou clean." And the Bible says immediately he was healed of his leprosy. This story is told three times in the scriptures. If God says it once it is important but they told this three times. Matthew told it. Mark told it and Luke told it. Our Lord God wants us to see this story because it is a beautiful picture of how a sinner can come to God and be made clean.

7. Now that you know the story, can you tell me how this pictures Christ and how He saves His people from their sins? What did the law do for this man? It did nothing but declared him unclean and cast him outside of the camp. Could the law fix him? No. The law can't fix anybody. It can't even fix our sin. (Romans 3: 20) Following God's Commandments is not going to pay for our sins either. IN the Bible a man named Paul followed all the commandments as much as humanly possible, but it didn't save him. He said he was blameless when it came to God's law, but he didn't understand what sin was. He didn't know sin is what you ARE - not what you DO. No, just like this leper Paul needed a healer and sinners need a healer! The law can't fix you, because the law only has one purpose. It says Guilty! Guilty! Guilty! And we are forced to call out before God, "Unclean! Unclean! Unclean!"
8. Oh, but did you notice how this man approached our Lord? See, this man KNEW who to go to in order to be healed of his leprosy. Who can do that? Christ! How is this a picture of how Christ saves His people from their sins? Who are we in that story? The Leper! Just like a leper, who is not suppose to be around people, we can't go to God. We are like that leper. We are unclean in God's eyes and God can only have perfect things around him. But bless God we have a man who is perfect that can go to God FOR us! He is one of us, yet he is as perfect as God and he cleanse us of our sins! Who can we go to in order to be cleansed from our sin? Christ!
9. I want you to notice this. When this man came to our Lord how did he

approach him? This leperos man approached the Lord fearful, on his knees, called him, "Lord" and says, "If you will you can make me clean." I believe if you and I and everybody here and all over this town would approach our master in just that fashion, there would be a very great possibility that they would have the same results. Our sins would be paid for and we could be made clean before God!

10. Did the Lord turn this man away? No! Our story says He touched him! OH, miracles of miracles! If I got around a leper I wouldn't touch one. Would you? No way!! But the Lord Jesus could touch him and NOT be defiled by touching him. If I touched him then I would be just as unclean as the Leper and I would probably get leprosy. I couldn't have him into my house or they would have to burn my house down under the law. Oh but Christ could touch that leper and NOT be defiled! He is God! He made the leprosy! Christ is the only man that could cleanse a leper and not be infected himself, and in the same example, Christ is the only one who can cleanse a sinner and still be our Lord and Savior, perfect before God. Our Lord reached out and touched him and said, "I will; be thou clean."
11. One of you asked me a while back, how do you know you are child of God? That is a very good question and answering that question should be of utmost importance to you. How do you know you know and trust the Lord for your salvation? I will tell you how you know...when you see and feel your weight of sin and you find out there is nothing else that can help you. And the only place you have to turn to is Christ. You MUST have Him. You must have him or surely your awful sin will sink you into hell forever. If you must have cleansing from your sin then you must go to Christ, because He is the only one that can give it to you. You don't have to get up and walk anywhere. Pray to God in your mind and heart. Approach him like the leper did. Kneel down and ask the Lord, if he will he can make me whole. He is all powerful!
12. Is there ever a danger of the leper becoming sick again? There is never a danger of him ever becoming a leper again - Never! No, Christ put it away.

That is exactly what he does for sinners. Our sins are paid for. Gone. Put away. Our salvation is so complete and so perfect that just as that leprosy departed from that man, immediately he was made clean, so our sins are gone if Christ is your Lord and Savior. (Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 38:17)

13. Does our Lord cleanse all the lepers there that day? He did not cleanse all lepers. Why do you think that was? There were many people who were sick that day but he only healed one? Why? Because there was only one who came to Christ to be made clean. Ah what a picture of sinners that is. We are so proud and arrogant that most of us don't even see our leprosy of sin and we don't think we need to be healed of anything. Our Lord even said that in the Bible. (John 5: 40, Matthew 9:11-13) He said Those that are well don't need a doctor; but those that are sick. I came to heal the sick. Only those who are sick and come to HIM for cleansing will be made clean. There is no other way to be made clean! (Acts 4:12)
14. Once a man is healed of leprosy he goes to the High Priest again, but this time the priest declares the man CLEAN! The law says you can go free! He no longer has to yell, "unclean, unclean" He is no longer cast out of the camp. (Leviticus 14: 1-57) Our Lord saves His people from their sins and now they can stand before God clean! His people are no longer cast out of God's presence! They are all perfectly clean - Not a flaw in them. His people are now FREE from the law. It cannot condemn them anymore! Oh happy condition! What a beautiful picture of Christ saving His people from their sin! (John 8:32, John 8:36, Romans 7:4)

Lesson Activities

- Rag Illustration
- Coloring Page
- Word Search

Take Home Lesson Overview



A Leper Cleansed?

Scripture Reference:

Matthew 8: When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

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Lesson Overview:

In our lesson today we discussed how Leprosy, in the Bible is a picture of sin. (Leviticus 13: 45-46) We went over the story told in Matthew of the Leper who came to our Lord and fell at His feet and said, "Lord, If you will; You can make me clean". This is a beautiful picture of how Christ Jesus saves His people from their sins. This leper had nowhere else to go or anybody else to turn to that could help him. He couldn't go to the high priest because the law could only condemn him. (Romans 3: 20) Everything he touched he defiled, but our Lord could touch him and not be defiled. All those who need to be made clean from their sins can come to Christ and fall at His feet and worship Him and ask him, "Lord, If you will, you can make me clean." Christ said, "I will; be thou clean." From that moment on the law had no more hold on him. He was clean



immediately! He no longer had to hold a rag over his face and yell, "Unclean! Unclean!" The same is true of God's people. All those that come to Him will not be cast out. If you are in need of cleansing from your sin, go to the great healer - the one who can touch you and immediately make you clean through His death on the cross. The spotless lamb can make you spotless! The law has no more hold on his people! They are free from the law and their sins are cleansed forever! Never to be charged against them! (John 8:32, John 8:36, Romans 7:4)

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