

§41: THE CLEANSING OF THE LEPER

Matt. 8:1–4; Mark 1:40–45; Luke 5:12–16

The Leper's Request

Matt. 8:1–2	Mark 1:40	Luke 5:12
<p>1 And when He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.</p> <p>2 And behold, a leper came to Him and bowed down to Him, saying: Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.</p>	<p>40 And there came to Him a leper, beseeching Him [and falling on his knees] and saying to Him: If you are willing, you can make me clean.</p>	<p>12 And it came about while He was in one of the cities, and behold—a man full of leprosy. Now when he saw Jesus, he fell on <i>his</i> face and asked Him, saying: Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.</p>

Jesus Heals the Leper

Matt. 8:3	Mark 1:41–42	Luke 5:13
<p>3 And stretching out the hand, He touched him, saying: I am willing, be cleansed.</p> <p>And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.</p>	<p>41 And feeling sympathy, He stretched out His hand and touched and said to him: I am willing, be cleansed.</p> <p>42 And immediately his leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.</p>	<p>13 And stretching out the hand, He touched him, saying: I am willing, be cleansed.</p> <p>And immediately the leprosy left him.</p>

Jesus Instructs the Leper

Matt. 8:4	Mark 1:44	Luke 5:14
<p>4 And Jesus said to him: See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and present the offering that Moses prescribed, for a testimony to them.</p>	<p>44 And He said to him: See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and present for your cleansing that which Moses prescribed, for a testimony to them.</p>	<p>14 And He ordered him to tell no one. But go, and show yourself to the priest, and present for your cleansing just as Moses prescribed, for a testimony to them.</p>

The Leper Spreads the Report

Mark 1:45	Luke 5:16
<p>45 But he went out and began to proclaim much and spread widely the matter, so that He could no longer openly [or, publicly] go into the city, but was out in the desolate places.</p> <p>And they were coming to Him from everywhere.</p>	<p>15 But the matter [news] about him [or, Him] spread even farther,</p> <p>and great multitudes were gathering to hear and to be healed of their ailments.</p> <p>16 But He Himself was withdrawing in the desolate areas and praying.</p>

Notes

1. **When He had come down from the mountain (Matt. 8:1).** On the chronological issues involved in this, see the note in §36.
2. **Leper/Leprosy.** Scholars are not certain that what is called “leprosy” in the Bible matches what we call leprosy today in every respect. The disease and how it was to be dealt with is described in detail in Leviticus 13–14. One of the most famous stories in the Bible regarding a leper is the account of Naaman in 2 Kings 5 and referred to by Jesus in Luke 4:27. Leprosy was occasionally a punishment from God, as with Miriam (Num. 12:1–15) and Uzziah (2 Chron. 26:16–21). One of the miracles given to Moses to demonstrate before Pharaoh involved leprosy (Ex. 4:6). In the N.T. apart from the present account, Jesus healed 10 lepers at once in Luke 17:11–19. Jesus also visited Simon “the leper” in Bethany (Matt. 26:6), and one of the evidences to John that Jesus was the Messiah was that “lepers are cleansed” (Luke 7:22).
3. **Feeling sympathy (Mark 1:41).** The word comes from a noun that means, literally, “the inward parts of a body, including esp. the viscera, *inward parts, entrails.*” (BDAG, pg. 938). It is used in this literal sense in Acts 1:18. Normally the noun form is used in the sense of “heart” or “love, affection.” (Luke 1:78; 2 Cor. 6:12; 7:15; Phil. 1:8; 2:1; Col. 3:12; Philem. 1:7,12,20; 1 John 3:17.) The verb found here in Mark 1:41 occurs only in the gospels (Matt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27; 20:34; Mark 6:34; 8:2; 9:22; Luke 7:13; 10:33; 15:20). It is normally translated “*have pity, feel sympathy,*” and it is almost always used with reference to Jesus or God (the only exception is the “good” Samaritan, Luke 10:33).