

THE PROCESS OF HEALING

Safe in Jesus' Hand

“A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.” (Mark 1:40-42)

The above passage from the Bible is a true example of a man, whom Jesus intervenes in his life and as a result, a dramatic change happened. The passage represents a beautiful interaction between Jesus and the sick leper. “Who is this sick man?” The Bible describes him as a leprosy man. Leprosy in medical term is a serious disease affecting the skin with ulcerations. As well, it affects the nerves and the patient will lose sensation and any trauma to his extremities (hands or feet) will cause him ulcers. These ulcers are spread widely affecting the limbs, leading to loss of fingers, parts of the hands, feet and other limb joints resulting the patient to be crippled. Soon he cannot move, cannot stand alone but to creep on the ground; kneeling on his knees pulling his body by his weak arms to move forward. Leprosy is a physical illness. To start it is simple but if it is left without treatment it advances and spreads all over the body to the full obvious critical crippled picture.

In the Bible, any disease that affects the skin of the body is described as Leprosy. Leprosy means unclean and uncleanness is sin. Leprosy describes the uncleanness of a person. Many times the Bible tells about a sinner leprosy. It is not actually that all people who has a skin disease is a sinner, but leprosy is defined an unclean condition. A person who sins is unclean and from a spiritual point of view, the word leprosy denotes unclean condition when the person sins. There are examples in the Bible that speaks about people who sin against God and their skin manifest leprosy. Both sin and leprosy are unclean condition and cripples any victim. The above passage describes to us the leprosy man who was crippled on his knees. In the same way sin cripples us. Anyone who remains in sin is unclean and no sinner can move freely. He is crippled by his sin and either isolates himself or being avoided by the people.

Example 1:

A man who has immoral sexual relation with another man or women is an offense to God and the Spirit of God is not in Him. He is sick spiritually and may fall into sickness that affects his physical fitness, may cripple his fertility or endanger his life, like having AIDS. This person's reputation is spoiled. People do not trust him and his work and social relation are affected. His family bond is broken and his children will be scattered away. Sin, if we allow it to master our life, will spread and advance like leprosy. Having sin is being leprosy; physically maybe able to walk, but actually paralyzed in social, family and spiritual life.

Example 2:

A person whose heart is full of anger finds him quarrelling with all the people around him. This anger may lead him to fight, and break his relationships with other people, starting from his family, to his neighbour, to the people with him in the work, and sometimes even on streets or marketplace. He plots evil to

revenge and destroy, but finally he himself will be destroyed. The sin of anger that he has allowed to live inside his heart spreads to all his body and mind to poison him totally. His anger may lead him to a crime to bring him to the police, to the court, prison or death.

The spiritual description of sin and leprosy as found in the Bible is the same. The unclean leprosy people according to the law of the Old Testament are to stay outside the city. They are to live away from the people, they cannot go to anyone who is clean, no one desires to touch them, and people have the fear even to meet them. So, they live along with other leprosy people in desolate, isolated, scorn and shame overwhelms them.

To fully understand the chosen passage for this week's topic, we have to fathom the leper's situation and all the misery that is associated with his living. The leprosy man cannot reach anyone and no one is willing to accept him. But there is exception because of God's love. The one who reaches that leprosy sinner is only God, his Creator; the Lord Jesus who came down from heaven to reach those who are away from Him. Jesus' hand is not only for the clean, but even more for the unclean. The sick or sinners, they need Jesus even more. **“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.” (Matthew 9: 12)** Jesus reached the leprosy man who at the moment is left without hope. With the hands of Jesus, the man's hope is revived, his strength is renewed and he receives a bonus of a new life. The leprosy or a sinner, taking the right attitude of repentance, humbles himself and approaches Jesus with a broken heart saying, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” God is waiting for every man to repent and He is working for every sinner to come back to Him. Jesus, filled with compassion, reaches out His hand and touches the man. “I am willing.” He said, “be clean”. Immediately the leprosy left the man and he is cured. Jesus has the power to heal and the authority to forgive sin and make leprosy clean.

After that miraculous healing, Jesus warned the leprosy man saying: “See that you don't tell this to anyone”. But what did this healed man do instead? He went out and began to talk freely, spreading the good news that Jesus healed him. Why did he not keep silent?

If you, who was sick and the greatest doctor healed you freely, without any charge, and you see others suffering as how you were before, how can you be silent? If a sinner's life is destroyed by sin, and the Lord touched Him and cleansed Him from the effect of that sin, and forgave him, how can he be silent not telling to his loved ones what has happened to him? If someone's fate is death and the Lord Jesus has saved Him by His blood on the cross and has given him eternal life, how can he be silent? If you were lonely and downtrodden and abandoned by the society and the Lord Jesus has restored your life and dignity, if you are not selfish or conceited, how do you want to keep quiet and not to tell about the Lord's goodness and faithfulness?

My dear and beloved: You and I are like that leper, we are sinners and we are crippled by sin. We ought to repent and ask the Lord Jesus to touch us by His hand as we pray: *“Father God in heaven I come to you as a sinner. Cleanse me Lord and wash me by Your blood that You shed on the cross to give me eternal life. Renew my heart and fill me with Your Spirit so that I can praise You and tell Your wonders to others. This is my prayer in Jesus' name.” Amen.*