

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

RESTORED

Mark 1:42 “. . .immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.” (Read the full account of Jesus healing the leper in Mark 1:40 – 45)

There are much worse illnesses than Covid19. At the time of Jesus, leprosy was quite prevalent. It was easily transmitted through the air and person-to-person contact. It was incurable. It resulted in severe, disfiguring skin sores and nerve damage affecting the limbs and skin. Though it was not deadly, the social stigma of leprosy alone was devastating. At the time of Jesus, because leprosy was so contagious, a leper was isolated and cast out of their community.

Mark gives an account of Jesus healing a leper. Once healed, Jesus made sure that this man was restored to his rightful place in society. This was because there was no known cure for this illness. The man had to earn the trust of the community that he was indeed well. They needed to know they no longer had to be fearful of contracting leprosy from him. To have the priests examine him and announce he was “clean,” assured the community he was safe to be around.

Lepers were alienated and isolated from the people of their community. They were unable to participate in any activity that brought them into close proximity to healthy people. This wasn't for ten days or even a month. It was as long as they lived. This was devastating.

This is exactly what occurs between you and God because of your sins. Like leprosy, your sins separate you from Him. Because of your sins you do not see or know Him as your loving Father. Rather, you see Him as the one who will condemn you to everlasting death.

As Jesus restored the leper back to health and sent Him back into fellowship with his community, so by God's grace Jesus has restored you back into fellowship with your heavenly Father and your fellow Christians. Colossians 1:18-23, “. . .He (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether

on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, if indeed you continue in the faith . . .”

Prayer: Dear Jesus, as the Leper was thankful that You restored his health so I thank you for reconciling and restoring me to a full relationship with my heavenly Father. Amen.

Drawn to the cross, which Thou has blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.

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