**I AM WILLING. BE CLEAN**

Mark 1:40-45 (Key verse 41)

 Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!”

1. Who came to Jesus (40)? What was his attitude before Jesus? What can we learn from him?

Notes:-

\*\* The people of Jesus’ day went further than the Old Testament told them to. Back then, they thought two things about a leper: **you are the walking dead** and **you deserve this because this is the punishment of God against you**.

\*\***Jewish custom said that you should not even greet a leper.** Custom said you had to stay six feet (two meters) from a leper. One Rabbi bragged that he would not even buy an egg on a street where he saw a leper, and another boasted that he threw rocks at lepers to keep them far from him. One other Rabbi didn’t even allow a leper to wash his face.

\*\*We are often moved with compassion when we meet sick people, but lepers usually did not arouse compassion. Their whole appearance was too repulsive, and they usually made people feel disgust instead of compassion.

i. Luke says this man was full of leprosy (Luke 5:12), meaning that the disease was in the advanced stages. This man’s whole body and life was rotting.

1. What did he do first for the man of leprosy (41)? What is the significance of Jesus’ reaching out and touching the man? What did he then say to him? What was the result (42)?

Notes:

\*\*Jesus healed many people many different ways, **but here He chose to heal this man with a touch.** He could have spoken a word or even just thought a thought and the man would have been healed, but Jesus used a touch.

1. This was important because people were forbidden to touch this man on account of his leprosy. Since his disease was in the advanced stages, he was a leper a long time. It was a long time since he had felt a loving touch.

ii. **It was against Jewish ceremonial law to touch a leper.** Yet Jesus did not break that law, because as soon as He touched the man, he was no longer a leper.

1. What was Jesus’ warning to him? (43-44a) Why was he asked to show himself to the priest? (44b) What did the man do instead? (45a) What happened as a result of this man’s actions? (45b)

Notes:-

\*\*Jesus told the former leper to go to the priests to carry out the ceremony the law required when a leper was cleansed. **Jesus did this first to honor the law of God, but also as a testimony to the priests that an incurable disease had been cured.**

\*\*Say nothing to anyone... But he went out and began to proclaim it freely: The man may have meant well and might have thought he was helping Jesus, **but his disobedience hindered the ministry of Jesus.** Jesus could no longer openly enter the city. **It’s best to always obey Jesus, and we should never think that we have a better plan than He does.**