

SERMON TRANSCRIPT



May 15, 2022

“Jesus Cleanses a Man with Leprosy”

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We believe in what's called the great commission and the great commandment. That's what directs us as a church the great commission the great commandment so uh the great commission is Jesus tells us that we are supposed to go into all the world making disciples of these people baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The great commandment is that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart with all our soul with all our mind but the second on to that is this it says love your neighbor as yourself what happens in in some churches is that you need to take that in context. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Those go together okay, and you don't understand how to love your neighbor as yourself unless you do that within the context of love the Lord your God with all your heart. And what churches have done historically across the country and even around the world is churches are starting to leave out the love of the Lord your God with all your heart part and they're just doing the love your neighbor as yourself part. And so, they consider themselves I am going to love the Lord my God by loving my neighbor as myself. That is how I do this and so they've got it backwards all right?

And so, what we do as a church is we say no no no no. We want to know what God says. We want to love the Lord our God with all of our heart and all our soul in our mind and understanding that and having this relationship with God and loving him in that way that changes us and makes us, helps us to love our neighbors ourselves appropriately and rightly and truly, okay? Can we take this down just to skosh there dude um and so that's why we study the Bible so much here as a church we try to study it from cover to cover beginning to last from the beginning toward the end we read it forward not backwards right?

I'll tell you this if you read it backwards the Bible's a really messed up book. You ever read the Bible backwards? Don't read it backwards read it from beginning to end right if you read it backwards what happens is that Jesus comes down from heaven on a cross and then some nice Romans help him off the cross and then as He's as he's walking around, he starts giving people leprosy and he starts making people sick and making people blind all of a sudden he finds this big group of people, they're all having this humongous meal. He takes all their food away and he turns it magically into just two fishes and some loaves until finally all of his disciples leave and then he's alone in stable and some old guys steal his presence.

So, we don't do it that way. We read it forward. That's how we roll here. If you got a Bible open up to Mark. We're in the book of Mark today. Mark chapter one. We're still in Mark one can you believe it we're still in Mark one we've been in Mark one for a month oh my goodness what's wrong with this guy I can't get out of Mark.

Thank you, Kaden, for reading that gives us the passage for this morning it starts out this way it says

A man with leprosy came to him begged him on his knees if you are willing you can make me clean. You are willing. A man with leprosy you know anything about leprosy today it's not called leprosy it's called Hansen's disease. Anybody ever met anybody who's got leprosy big raise of hands all the people that have been hanging out with lepers lately. Nobody? I don't know anybody. You know there's 15 million people on the earth right now have leprosy? They're all in third world countries it's very treatable in the in the United States but back then, it was a death sentence. It was bad you did not want leprosy um there was no cure for it and this is what it looked like you'd be uh you ever get a rash just a rash you know you get allergies or you step in something and you're weeding something and all of a sudden you get a rash it starts out as just a rash it's a little rash you get some little red bumps on you then those bumps get bigger and they turn they turn white and they start to get kind of we right start scraping those bad boys right? You scrape those and then they get scaly they get scaled. They're

kind of scaly looking and they go over your whole body your whole body gets these things, and you start to, and you get little nodules kind of growing on it and it just kind of elephanty looking.

It's bizarre and your face starts to change you start to look like a lion because it gets on your face and stuff and your hair starts to turn white and then your eyebrows are white and then your hair sometimes will fall out and your eyebrows will fall out and you're like man what in the world is wrong your toenails and your fingernails they start to get loose and they just rot away and what's happening is your body's just starting to kind of decay and you say oh that's horrible it must be really painful no it's not it's not really painful that's the bad part.

See I just told you the good news about leprosy that was the good news the good news is it's not painful the bad news is you know why there's pain there's pain because you don't it's bad when you go and grab a hot piece of wood out of a fire right because that burns your flesh but what if you don't feel it right what if you put scalding water on your face and you don't feel that right your body just starts to decay and stuff is like f and you can't feel stuff that's going on at night you know at night you get a bug or something you slap it like this and doing that but a bug's getting it just it's right through you don't even know the bugs there there's a doctor that does surgery on this today and he'll get done with the surgery and he sends a cat with the people home after he does the surgery because what happens is oftentimes you'll see people with leprosy they'll lose a finger they'll lose a toe they're losing body parts it's not that they're falling off they're getting eaten by animals it'll be the middle of the night and you get like mickey mouse out there chomping on your on your pinky finger and eats it and you don't even know you wake up and you go where'd my finger go a rat ate it last night so this guy a legitimate doctor in the third world he gives you a cat after surgery to keep the rats away.

And that's the good news about leprosy that's the good part because it's only physical the bad part about leprosy is the social stuff one of the reasons I moved here is because I liked I wanted to be around some of my family that I hadn't seen a long time I'd lived 20 some years away from my dad and away from my sister and away from my mom and I was like you know I wanna they're getting a little older I wanna be a little closer to them and so I'm going to try to see if I can and I don't want to be around people but you get leprosy forget it you get leprosy and you're at a pariah and religiously you're a pariah religiously and law altogether you can't be around people you're isolated you're unclean whenever you go near somebody you're around people you see people there you have to yell from 50 yards away "unclean, unclean"! You got to yell that out to people unless it's windy if it's windy if you're within 250 feet you've got to yell unclean because the wind could take it.

You gotta wear this thing over your face under this uh like cloth over your over your mouth you know what we call that today? A mask but back then it was just a cloth over your face right you had to wear that and yell unclean and when somebody heard unclean the first thing they do is they grab a rock to make sure that you don't get any closer so they can and they throw rocks at you get away from me I don't want anyone and so you're like well but at least you got your family uh you don't have your family either because what happens is what happens is uh you know maybe for the first half a year maybe the first year you got leprosy and maybe your mom or your sister will bring you food once a week or something like that and leave it and then go back get out of the way or they'll bring you some clothes because your clothes are all ripped that would only happen for a little while after a little while what they would do is they would have a funeral for you they would just have a funeral and they'd say he's dead as a leper you were the walking dead you were a zombie you are literally decomposing body parts falling off and you're walking through life you've got nine years maybe of life like this.

The good news it's not real painful, but you're not invited to Easter, nobody to celebrate your birthday nobody to talk to nobody come up give you a hug nobody to see on Sunday and say oh it's so good to see you

nobody come up come up to you at church now you're banned from church you're banned from church you're banned from synagogue because leprosy according to culture is not about disease. It's about sin.

You are a leper because you did something wrong you were a leper because you're evil you're a leper these bad things are happening to you you're isolated this because of who you are leprosy is just the result of the sinfulness within you and in you so you deserve what you're getting you deserve this you deserve to be isolated because of who you are leprosy is a picture of sin and not just in culture but in the Bible you know there's no other disease in the Bible that is talked about like this in the old testament it's specified out it's very specific about what you do if somebody has leprosy what do you do with this person you can't have that person hanging around you so the law tells you what to do in the book of Leviticus chapter 13 chapter 14 there's quite a bit of talk in there about what you do if somebody gets leprosy how do you know that they've got this skin condition what do you do if they have this what if they get healed of this condition what would happen here's the problem no one is ever healed of this condition there's a passage in the Bible uh in the book of uh Leviticus chapter 14 13-14 and there's a passage in there this is what you do if somebody is healed of leprosy and they might as well have torn it out because never ever in the history of Judaism did, they ever use that passage because no one ever had been healed or cleansed of leprosy.

Never happened it's one of those passages that you're like is there something in there about getting a rash yeah there's a passage in there I don't remember where it was its somewhere back in the old Leviticus passage I don't remember anything about it because we've never used it we never will use it because the only person that would ever heal somebody of leprosy or could heal somebody from leprosy is God because God is the only one that can cleanse sin God's the only one that could heal leprosy and we all know that it's obvious only God could do that and all the jews know that the only time that that that anybody would be healed is when God would do the healing and obviously God is the one that's caused people to have leprosy so nobody's ever healed of it and that's why this these rituals that we've got written in here in the book of Leviticus of what you do when somebody's healed we don't even know what to do we've never done it before we if anybody ever got healed of leprosy we'd have to look it up we'd have to go into our Bible and look at the aren't we in a concordance leprosy get healed where's the passage on what we do with that I have no idea what to do with that we've never done that before

And so, here's how leprosy pictures sin if you've got a Bible you could turn into the book of Leviticus chapter 13. we'll turn back there to Leviticus chapter 13. I just want to show you a little bit of this and it's called regulations about defiling skin disease and then it's got a whole deal on regulations about defiling molds and then it talks about cleansing from defiled skin diseases what you do if somebody's cleansed they're like well we don't ever have to worry about that that's never going to happen right

But look at Leviticus chapter 13 verse 13. here's what happens says the priest is to examine the sore on the skin and if the hair in the sore has turned white and the sore appears to be more than skin deep is the word more than skin deep. It's a defiling skin disease when the priest examines that person he shall pronounce them ceremonially unclean first thing that we find is that sin and leprosy it's more than skin deep sin is more than skin deep it Jesus talks about all this time it's not the sins the things we do it's not about just on the surface what we do it's always the reflection of something internal it's something in us we're sinners in the core of who we are we have a sin nature and so why do we sin because we're sinners why do orange trees make oranges because they're orange trees that's why they don't make apple trees right why do we why are we not doing good all the time because we're not good at our core we're bad and that's the nature of sin is in us and the point here is that it's more than skin deep this leprosy is not something that's just surface it's something that's in you right and if it's something that's in you yes it's legit I'm going to call you as a person unclean okay the second thing look at Leviticus 13 7. do we have Leviticus 13 7.

I'll throw that on the screen we have that one 13 no that's not that's not it do we have Leviticus 13 7 well let me go back there again let's see Leviticus 13 7. it says in uh verse 7. says but if the rash does spread in their skin after they have shown themselves to this priest to be pronounced clean they must be appear before the priest again see what it's talking about is that this this this disease this this leprosy this skin disease the problem with it what's nasty about sin and what's nasty about leprosy is that it spreads do you know that sin spreads do you know that like you get involved in somebody you ever you ever had a friend that was like a great friend man and he was like really good and he did all kinds of stuff and you loved hanging out with him and then all of a sudden there was this other group and they were doing all kinds of stuff they shouldn't do and then your friend it's like it's like it spread to him and now all of a sudden he's all involved in all this other stuff and you're like what haven't or something within your own life you know maybe you're a guy and uh

You know you're just kind of you're watching tv and something comes on that kind of gets you ooh I like that you know and it's a little sexual in nature and you're like I shouldn't look at that I shouldn't look at that but then but then it spreads you know it all of a sudden now it's a little bit more and it gets into your heart and it becomes bigger and it becomes bigger and it becomes bigger until we have guys that are addicted to pornography where they seek it every single day we have women that that go out and they'll say well I just want to share this to you in prayer I have a prayer request I want to just tell you I heard about so-and-so you know and I heard about them and uh you know I just going to share with you because I want you to pray about it right you pray about it with me all right we'll be praying but isn't that horrible. Let's pray let's pray for her you know what we should get more people and have them all pray for hey everybody let's tell everybody about it and it just spreads little sin gets bigger and bigger and bigger to where you look at somebody one moment and a year later you're in a marital affair I've seen that in people's lives from one to the it spreads that's the problem with sin is not something that you can control it's something that affects you it's something that that is within you and it's something that grows and it spreads

Starts out bad let's throw up the next one throw up the next one it spreads leprosy also says anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes let their hair be unkept cover the lower part of their face that's a mask and cry out, "unclean, unclean" as long as they have the disease they remain clean they must live alone they must live outside the camp.

Second thing is it defiles every third thing is the files everything that it touches. like why can't they be with other people because if you're near somebody else then then you're gonna defile them they might get it now they found that leprosy's not nearly as contagious as they thought it that they thought it was but the idea was it's contagious the reason why the jews when they went into the promised land uh well before they were in the promised land but once they got into the promised land the reason why the jews were supposed to isolate themselves in a sense and that is they were afraid that the sin of these other nations like don't marry the Canaanite women don't marry these women don't make them a part of your family you need to keep your distance from them because you're going to become like them it's not that they're going to become holy you're going to become like them and you're going to worship their Gods and so there was this isolation that happens and that's the fourth one that we've got here if we look at Leviticus 46 uh 13 verse 46 it drives a wedge between people right all of a sudden your brother's got leprosy and you don't see him anymore you can't see him anymore you don't want any you have a funeral and you go to it and you're done with them it's over

and it's the same with God sin puts a rift between you and family. I see that all the time where all of a sudden you got this big problem people come actually quite a bit and they say well you know we're having this family problem and that's common right people come into the office and they'll say hey we're having this problem with our family can I sit down can I talk to you about it uh this is what's going on 99.9 percent of the time well I can't say that I'd say 90 of the time there's it's probably more than that 99 percent of the time there's sin somewhere

in that most time there's sin somewhere in that usually there's some misunderstanding as well there's usually a misunderstanding somebody not being gracious somebody not seeing the sin on both sides there's usually a log in somebody's eye and a big huge telephone pole in the other person's eye and you got to chop those down but the idea is the idea is that it isolates it breaks people up because sin hurts people don't like to see people that they love her

And so let's keep going let's dive back in here it says if you are willing that's what he asks that's kind of a weird thing to say you have leprosy you don't have a whole lot of hope you don't have any the chances of you being healed are zero because no one's ever been healed of leprosy before and you're Jewish we find out this guy's a Jew because he's told to obey the law all right so this is a Jewish leper but his response is interesting to Jesus he doesn't say heal me of my leprosy he actually never asked to be healed he has to be cleansed because this is sin it's all sin cleanse me I need to be cleaned I need to be washed up I need I need to be cleansed but he says if you're willing if you're willing did you know that sometimes God is not willing to heal you I don't know if you knew that there are sometimes that God is not willing to heal you where you'll come to God and you'll say God I just know that you want me to be healed I know that I've got this disease and I know it's bad and I can think of all the great things that would happen if you healed me sometimes God is not willing you know why God is smarter than you God is about his own glory and God knows what's best right when it comes to dealing with God it's never a matter of let's make a deal it's always a matter of father knows best okay and God may have something better in mind he may be using this for you he may be using this for somewhere else

God don't let me don't let me fall off of a roof God don't let me get so sick you know okay well you're no I'm gonna you're it's gonna happen right the times that we grow in our lives are always things that we pray would never happen

But God's smarter than us did you know that got smarter than you you're like well I hope this would never happen I pray that this would never happen to me and then it happens and you're like God fix it right now fix it right now no I'm not gonna do that because I love you and I care about you and I'm going to use this in your life I'm going to grow you I'm going to help you through this in this particular case God has a plan the plan is actually an interesting one if you read the passage here because what it seems like God wants to do as I read this passage remember he's healed Jesus says don't go around telling everybody about it here's what I want you to do I want you to go to the priests and I want you to tell the priest that you're healed what would that be like imagine that you show up at synagogue or you show up at the temple uh to announce yourself and they all know that you're just think about this for a second all right this is without a doubt the purpose of this miracle it says hey I was a leper I'm Jewish Jesus healed me wait nobody can heal but God not Jesus healed me he cleansed me and he told me to come here and obey the law and submit to you the priests and make testimony to you that I've been healed

What are you going to do they go we don't know what to do we've never had this happen before nobody's ever been healed of leprosy before think of the testimony that this would be just think of the testimony that this would be for the people in the temple?

They would obviously God has showed up no one could heal and this would directly go to people that care about the law people that see the law seriously people that put all their hope and their faith in the law this is the greatest kind of a testimony to a bunch of people like that you could possibly have isn't it hey don't tell anybody else just go to the priest and you tell them that's your specific appointment that's your specific job right now I've healed you and now I've healed you for a mission get up and go and tell the priests so that they can get all freaked out not know what passage to go to they can wig out they can say oh I don't know what to do and they can go and they can use their concordance and then go back and they can go through and they can have a

meeting about it and they could freak out go do that that's exactly what I want you to do because I know the effect it's going to happen on the religious leaders go do that is that what he does let's go back this is bummer let's go to verse 41.

Did I really just do one verse I just did one verse what is wrong with me slap that guy it says Jesus was indignant okay um that's what the Niv says your version may say Jesus what had compassion I think that's right given the context and given uh the way it's written it it's not a matter if they've that scholars have interpreted a specific word different it's a matter of different manuscripts that's what the issue is and which is the correct manuscript to me the context shows that Jesus had compassion we I don't see Jesus as being angry here I don't see Jesus as being indignant I see Jesus as having compassion over a man who's got leprosy and it goes on and it says

Jesus was indignant I say Jesus had compassion he reached out his hand and touched the man when's the last time this guy ever had anybody touch him never been forever that's been like forever

I like I like to I like it when somebody kind of put their arms around me I like it when somebody comes up and gives me a fist bump I like it when somebody gives me a hug I like that I think that's cool I love that because it lets me know that you know people care and just something about some people like that more than others you know some people are like hey don't touch me right some people have the emcee hammer don't touch us kind of a syndrome but I kind of like it he reached out his hand and touched him I am willing I am willing you've prayed you've asked you've asked me you've told me and you've asked according my will God I want what you want if you want me to be healed if you want to cleanse me I know you can I know you can question is will you and God says let me reveal my will to you my will is that I want you to be healed and my I'm revealing my will my will to you because there's a specific thing I want you to do as a result of this right. I'm not healing you just for no reason right we are healed, and we are cleansed for a purpose remember last week we had peter's mom peter's mom she was sick remember that and she's healed and immediately gets up and serves Jesus

And the question could be say if she isn't serving Jesus was she really healed the question can be said here if he's not going out and doing what God asked him to do is he healed is he cleansed what's this it goes on and it says here in in Mark chapter 1 it says I am willing he said be clean immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed all right immediately

Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning see that you don't tell this to anyone come on Jesus really are you serious don't tell nobody this is the first time in history everyone has been anyone has ever been healed of leprosy and you do this and now you say oh yeah but don't tell nobody come on Jesus you got to be kidding me don't tell nobody doesn't that sound like kind of a hard ask don't tell nobody no I'm not I don't think that he means you can't ever go tell nobody but he says don't tell anybody but go show yourself to the priests and offer the sacrifice that Moses commanded for your cleansing as a testimony to them first of all first thing you got to do is you've got to go and you've got to make testimony here but don't go tell anybody now have you ever been to a faith healer anybody

Ever been to a faith healer? When I was in college I had a big uh it was on this wrist it was a cyst it came out to about there and I remember going on a it was like a Tuesday night they were having like this guy and he was he was an interesting cat I I'd never been to his church before but I went to a lot of churches when I was in college because I was trying out all kinds of different denominations I went to an African Methodist episcopal church for a while which was great you know I just like clapping all the time and I was like yeah that's all right it was great one time I'm in the African Methodist episcopal church it was my first time there and I look around I'm the only white guy in the entire building and he says we got any visitors with us here this morning and I was like uh yeah this guy over here right I mean fun times but I tried all these I go to this faith healer church and he goes to this thing and he has people coming up on stage and everybody comes on stage and whenever they'd come

on stage he'd take his hand like this he'd say he'd say in the name of Jesus and he'd start to push you and they'd fall over on the ground and everybody lay there and they'd start talking and doing some weird stuff I don't know what was going on well I saw him do this about 10 or 15 times for about maybe a half hour and I knew I had the cyst on my wrist and I said you know what I'm going to go up there and so and I don't speak in tongues and people are speaking in tongues and I just thought all right well I'm just going to just see what happens and so I go up there and he puts the mic in front of my mouth and he says he says what do you want from God this morning and I said well actually I think it was evening it was evening what do you want from God this evening and I said well I've got this cyst on my wrist that I'd like that to be healed and I want to speak in tongues I never I don't speak in tongues and I thought well if I'm going to speak in tongues God's going to make me speak in tongues I'm not going to just make it up and if I'm going to get healed then God's going to have to do it but I'm also bigger than this guy I was an athlete in college so I had some muscle and so he starts to push me over and I dug in a little bit right and I'm like you're not pushing me over right God can knock me over but you're not pushing me over so I'm digging in and he's pushing he's she's trying as hard as he can to knock me over and I'm thinking you know I'm not going anywhere and I didn't speak in tongues or nothing but so help me the cyst was gone so help me the cyst was gone and I thought to myself and I had no faith at all zero faith at all and God said I'm willing. God said I'm willing I'm gonna I'm gonna cleanse you I'm gonna heal you of this thing.

He says go Jesus sent them away at once with a strong warning see that you don't tell this to anyone and here's what these faith teachers do they try to advertise as much as they can everybody who's been healed right if I got healed then hey we had 50 people that were healed last night well three of them three of them maybe were kind of healed the other ones are now sick again already it's only been a few days and there's all this

Just bizarre right but they're telling everybody we had 50 healings on Facebook last night there were 50 of them there were only 30 people at your service well yeah we double duty some people got sick again we had to heal them again I don't know not Jesus isn't concerned with showing off he's not concerned about miracles he's not concerned about showing off to people what Jesus wants is he wants to preach and this verifies his ministry verify it verifies the things he's preaching and this tells us about sin he's proving that I can cleanse from sin I am God no one else can do this only God can let's finish it up let's finish it up it says instead

Instead he went out and began to talk freely spreading the news. So, he was only given one real command right go to the priest this is what I've healed you for he immediately picks up and does the exact opposite instead of going to the priest and saying look what God did here let's focus all the attention on what God did God healed me God cleansed me

All the attention is now look at me look at me. Look at me I'm whole look at me see look at me, not look at God no look at me see I don't have no bumps no more. See? I don't look like a lion anymore see look my hair's growing back look at me look at me. And the point here is that only God could heal a leper think of the testimony that would have been had if this guy would have been healed and did what God told him to do but instead he decides to do his own thing he disobeys God right away and disobeying God does a couple things in this passage look what it says it says instead he went out and began to talk freely spreading the news as a result right as a result of what as a result of this guy not going to the priest but instead going around and talking to everybody in town about what God didn't want him to do doing the exact opposite in other words because of his disobedience to God our disobedience to God has effects and the first effect that it has is our disobedience hinders God's ministry through us it hinders the ministry of God did you know that you can hinder the ministry of God there are a lot of churches there are a lot of people that have like hardly any ministry at all because they are the ones hindering the ministry it's not that God doesn't want to do something it's not that God doesn't want to grow the church it doesn't God does it isn't that God doesn't want to love people through him but they are hindering the ministry by disobey by disobeying God by disobeying him

What's the second thing that happens as a result of this the priests never hear or see this guy they never go through this pesticide wow what happened what chapter is that in what about somebody that's been healed of leprosy what chapter is that skin disease we don't know they never get this experience they never are confronted with God the witness of Jesus is hindered and stopped because this guy disobeys I mean I got compassion for the cat I do I got compassion for this cat because he he's a guy that's uh he's a guy obviously that's just filled with joy over being healed I get that but it's also worth us noting that there are things that happen as a result of our disobedience what about you and I what are the things that we do in our lives we've been healed we've been cleansed.

What are the things that we do that keep us or that hinder God or that hinder the witness of Jesus because we're disobedient and Jesus ministries limited as a consequence of this also everything I've said so far comes down to this all right so if your hearing aid was turned down so you could take a nap now is the time to turn it up all right this is the main point everything I talked about today is not about leprosy nothing I talked about today is about leprosy it's not about leprosy in the Bible this isn't about leprosy disease of leprosy and what that meant in the culture and what that means today it's not about leprosy none of it's about leprosy it's always in scripture about sin it's always about sin Jesus looks at a sinner it's not that he looks at a leper right I mean yes technically he's looking at a leper but it's representing in the scripture a sinner there is a person who is a sinner a person who is isolated because of their sin a person who is um

Who it's spreading through their life a person who has no relationship with God because of a person who can't have fellowship a person it has destroyed their life and they are rotting from the inside out this person is rotting away they are the walking dead they are forced to wear grave clothes they are forced to wear clothes like they are going to their own funeral because they are they're the walking dead it's full of sin and the encounters Jesus we come as sinners, and we encounter Jesus and the question is are you willing are you willing says yes I am willing.

And I come to you when I touch you and the moment Jesus touches us we are cleansed the moment we take a moment we say yes I am a sinner I recognize that I am covered in spots I recognize that I'm covered in scales I recognize that I've been using pottery to break this stuff I recognize the horribleness of my sin I recognize that it stinks that nobody wants to be around me I recognize the result of sin and God I come to you and I'm asking you please can you because only God can heal me of my sin or my leprosy only God can do that

And so Jesus says yes I will but notice I had to acknowledge I was a sinner I didn't acknowledge that I had leprosy I had to acknowledge that it was in me I had to acknowledge that this is a problem in my life and that I can't fix it and maybe I've tried everything there is to overcome my sin and restore relationships and to restore relationship with God I've tried everything and nothing works you're the only hope I have is in Jesus to deal with my sin

And so, I give my life to Jesus and now I'm walking around and everywhere I rock around everywhere I go in Geneseo or Atkinson everywhere I go I see people who are walking dead

You guys ever see the sixth sense you see that movie remember that kid he's sitting there and he's in bed and he's scared, and he says I see dead people I see dead people. Everywhere you go you see dead people the walking dead people that are sinners with the only hope they have is to come to Jesus and have him touch them, but they don't know they're dead that's a problem in the movie they don't know they're dead they don't know they're dead

so, we have to acknowledge it and as I go around and I look at lepers I look at all these sinners that are around and I see the walking dead everywhere I go I go to McDonald's I go to school I go wherever and I see the walking dead how am I supposed to respond to that person how did Jesus respond to them am I supposed to when I see somebody that's a sinner somebody comes into our church that's not like everybody else and you're like oh that person's lived a really hard life that person's lived a sinful life that person's got scales all over them that person looks like a lion that's a sinner we better stay away from them let's get over here out of the way so that they sit way over there I don't want to be close to that person unclean is that how you deal with sinners no it's not how you deal with sinners that's not the way Jesus deals with sinners we deal with sinners the way Jesus deals with sinners the way Jesus deals with lepers sinners same thing.

If you're a leper whether you're here or whether you're at home in other words if you're a sinner and you're here or you're at home the first thing you need to do is you need to yell out to God and say unclean I am unclean, unclean. And say Jesus, I believe you can heal me I know you can are you willing he says yes I'm willing and he'll touch us question this morning is are you like the leper before he was made clean are you a sinner who has not been cleansed by Jesus yet if that's you we turn to Jesus we say I am unclean. it's within me it's more than skin deep it's isolated me from God

It's destroyed my life it spreads into other areas and so God I'm turning to you and I'm asking you please Lord Jesus cleanse me I know you're willing I know you're willing but there are others we've been cleansed and now we walk around we walk around like this leper just ignoring everything that Jesus told us to do

He just told live this way do this pick up go tell these people about Jesus and we just ignore it we just ignore it and we say well but that's not what I want I want it to be about me I want it to be about me so everybody look at me look at what not let's point people to Jesus that's the whole purpose of the healing is to point people to Jesus the whole reason you've been redeemed and purchased is that he loves you and he loves other people and he wants to use you to reach other people

If we walk through this after being cleansed and we disobey God look at all the things you're doing we're killing the testimony that God has this guy killed the testimony that he, had it limited the ministry

It limited the ministry can you be saved and not obey yeah, this guy was healed but healed for a purpose that that he never got to see just imagine I just think what could have happened if this guy would have done what Jesus said man just think of what would happen it could have been it could have been a lot different it could have been a lot different we say God I'm unclean unclean unclean if you're willing heal me cleanse me of my sin and Jesus response is he touches us he touches us and I pray that each one of us have been touched by Jesus that he's touched us and as a result of that touch we get up here and we do what he tells us to do we follow his word we serve him we love him we make it all about him not about us let's stand up and closing and we're going to sing he touched me let's sing this together.