

Good morning, Belfield Baptist Church Family and Friends.

***An outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for October 31, 2021.***

CONFESSION, COMPASSION, CLEANSING Mark 1:40-45

Jesus had been preaching throughout all Galilee, and healing: "all manner of sickness and all manner of disease" Matthew 4:23. This leper doubtless heard of the great and various cures worked by Jesus. There is no doubt that he longed in his heart to be able to meet Jesus. When the chance did come, he took full advantage of the situation. Let us look at the scripture this morning.

1. **THE NEED:** Verse 40: "**There came a leper to him**". The word leper was the most awful, terrible word and it carries the same meaning as the sinner considering the presence of Jesus. Every leper was shut out from the place of the public, separated from the fellowship of the pure, and compelled by their own character to keep company with the vile and the outcasts. This carries on to this day in some part of the world. This man had:

1. A need deeply felt. He knew he was a leper. He made no attempt to justify himself or conceal his true state.

We look at the same thing with a lost person today. He knows he is lost when he is convicted and will do anything to help overcome the problem. He could be a person that has never accepted Christ and could be a church member.

2. A need no human help could meet. His cry was unclean, his prospects were dark and hopeless, his disease was incurable. Sin is a plague in the heart that cannot be touched with the clothing of outward reformation: Psalm 60:11: **Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.** As man cannot help a leper, man cannot cure a sinner only the Master through His grace.

3. A need that drove him to Jesus. When all else fails we go to Jesus. Hunger for a desire for help draws us toward home or the

Lord. When the prodigal began to be in want he said, "I will arise and go to my father."

If we look at Matthew 5:4 it says: **Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.** If we want to be healed from leprosy or sin, we go to the Master.

**II. THE MANNER IN WHICH HE CAME.** He came:

1. EARNESTLY: "**Beseeching him**" (V.40) He had a spirit within that was desiring or fighting for freedom. This cry now reached his lips and fell on the ears of the Master. It is easy to be earnest when the need is felt.
2. HUMBLY: "**Kneeling down to Him**" (V.40) This poor leper does not need anyone to pour contempt on him, he needs someone to show love and compassion. He meets Jesus on his knees asking for mercy for cleaning. Just like a sinner.
3. BELIEVING: **If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.** (V.40) He knew that if Jesus was willing, he was able to save him. He knew that Jesus had the power to save him.
4. Many times, we have not because we believe not. The leper believed and knew Jesus had the power.

**III. THE RECEPTION:** With love, holiness, and compassion.

The love of the Master can heal the worst of the worst problems.

HIS HEART WAS MOVED AND IT PUT IN MOTION HIS HAND. Verse 41.

**And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.** Jesus heard the man, but he felt the leper's hopeless situation, and his belief in God.

Notice what happened.

1. He was moved with compassion.
2. Put forth his hand.
3. Touched him.
4. He answered him (I will)
5. He healed him.

This is the first time someone had touched the leper in a long time. The same with the sinner. What a delight to see the hand of God touching someone and heal them of their sin.

#### IV. THE RESULTS:

1. Made free. The leprosy departed from him. As with sin only the Master can free someone.
2. Made Clean: V.42. He was cleansed when Jesus spoke. That was all that was needed.
3. Made Clean Immediately. When he spoke, he was healed. Same with sin. When we confess our sins, we are healed. At that time.

There is no hope for the lost unless they hear the message of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Larry Vickery  
PO Box 133  
South Heart, ND 58655  
Cell: 701-260-5940  
Email: ldvickery@gmail.com