

Matthew 8:1-4
The Cleansing of the Leper.

- I. Setting: Christ's ministry of healing and preaching. Matthew 4:23.
 - A. The people's hope: Mt 4:24.
 - B. Christ's teaching ministry: the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:1-2; 7:28-29.
 - C. Christ's plan for ministry.

- II. Who was the leper?
 - A. Leprosy defaces, destroys and isolates.
 - B. The leper in Israel. Leviticus 13:45; Numbers 5:2; Lev 14:34ff.
 - C. Cleansing from leprosy. Lev 14:2ff.
 - D. The significance of the leper.
 1. In the OT: a living testimony that being unclean cuts a person off from communion with God and with the church.
 2. Reflects our spiritual condition. Psalm 51:5; Romans 2:10-18.
 3. In the NT: the leper takes on a significance of hope.

- III. Who was the healer?
 - A. The unclean can come to him to ask for cleansing.
 - B. He reaches out to touch even the untouchable. Matthew 8:3; Job 14:4.
 - C. He is Jesus the Messiah, promised to Israel for the salvation of the world. Matthew 11:4-5; Isaiah 29:18-19; Isaiah 35:5; Isaiah 61:1.

- IV. Consider the blessings of this miracle for us.
 - A. God sent his Son into the world to save lepers.
 1. The compassion of Christ. Philippians 2:6-7.
 2. The closeness of Christ. Hebrews 2:14 .
 3. The power of Christ. Hebrews 1:3.
 - B. Since we are all as lepers before God, we all can come to Christ with the hope of the leper in Matthew 8:2; Matthew 10:8; 1Corinthians 6:9-11.
 - C. Remember that when Christ cleanses, he also commands obedience to his law. Matthew 8:4; Luke 17:12-19
 - D. Obedience to the law of Christ means that we do not shun lepers.