

The Healing of the Leper

This story is found in the following Gospels, beginning at the verse given:

Matthew 8:1

Mark 1:40

Luke 5:12



Let's look at the symptoms and out workings of leprosy. You may now or in the future be dealing with something as serious. I want you to see the extent of Jesus' Power by first seeing the extent of the illness. Seeing how big the 'mountain' is and then seeing Jesus 'cast it into the sea' is a great faith builder.

What is leprosy?

Leprosy is a disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*, which causes damage to the skin and the peripheral nervous system.

The disease develops slowly (from six months to 40 years!) and results in skin lesions and deformities, most often affecting the cooler places on the body (for example, eyes, nose, earlobes, hands, [feet](#), and testicles). The skin lesions and deformities can be very disfiguring and are the reason that infected individuals historically were considered outcasts in many cultures. The disease is termed a chronic granulomatous disease, similar to [tuberculosis](#), because it produces inflammatory nodules (granulomas) in the skin and nerves over time.

What is the history of leprosy?

Unfortunately, the history of leprosy and its interaction with man is one of suffering and misunderstanding. The newest research suggests that at least as early as 4000 B.C. individuals had been infected with *M. leprae*, while the first known written reference to the disease was found on Egyptian papyrus in about 1550 B.C. The disease was well recognized in ancient China, Egypt, and India, and there are several references to the disease in the Bible. Because the disease was poorly understood, very disfiguring, slow to show symptoms, and had no known treatment, many cultures thought the disease was a curse or punishment from the gods. Consequently, leprosy was left to be "treated" by priests or holy men, not physicians. (from an online medical site)

The following information is from biblestudytools.com:

behold, ^b there cometh {^a came} ^b to him a leper [There is much discussion as to what is here meant by leprosy. Two diseases now go by that name; viz., psoriasis and elephantiasis. There are also three varieties of psoriasis, namely, white, black and red. There are also three varieties or modifications of elephantiasis, namely, tubercular, spotted or streaked, and anæsthetic. Elephantiasis is the leprosy found in modern times in Syria, Greece, Spain, Norway and Africa.]

1. Leviticus 13 also declares that any bright spot or scale shall be pronounced leprosy, if it be found to spread abroad over the body; and this indefinite language would include elephantiasis, cancer and many other skin diseases. In fact, the Law deals with the initial symptoms rather than with the ultimate phases of the fully developed disease. 2. Elephantiasis was a common disease in our Saviour's time, and has been ever since, and would hardly be called leprosy now, if it had not been popularly so called then. The word "leprosy" comes from "lepo," which means to peel off in scales. It is hereditary for generations, though modern medical authorities hold that it is not contagious. However, the returning Crusaders spread it all over Europe in the tenth and eleventh centuries, so that according to Matthew Paris there was no less than nine thousand hospitals set apart for its victims. The facts that the priests had to handle and examine lepers, and that anyone who was white all over with leprosy was declared unclean, led scholars to think that the laws of Moses forbade any one to approach or touch a leper. There must also have been a sanitary principle in God's laws, since we still deem it wise to separate lepers. Elephantiasis is the most awful disease known. The body of its victim disintegrates joint by joint, until the whole frame crumbles to pieces. Psoriasis is milder, but is very distressing. Mead thus describes a case: The "skin was shining as covered with flakes of snow. And as the bran-like scales were daily rubbed off, the flesh appeared quick or raw underneath." In addition to the scaly symptoms, the skin becomes hard and cracks open, and from the cracks an ichorous humor oozes. The disease spreads inwardly, and ends in consumption, dropsy, suffocation, and death], ^c **a man full of leprosy** - Luke meant to describe a leper in the last stages of the disease--a leper past all hope]: and when he saw Jesus,^b beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying to him, ^c he fell on his face,^a and worshipped him, ^c and besought him, saying, ^b unto him, ^c **Lord** - It is not likely that the leper knew enough of Jesus to address him as the Son of God. He evidently took Jesus for some great prophet; but he must have had great faith, for he was full of confidence

that Jesus had power to heal him, although there was but one case of leper-cleansing in the Scriptures - [2 Kings 5:1-19](#) (Naaman).

Here is a picture of a leprous foot. It is very hard to look at. I chose this picture in particular because it shows an extreme development of leprosy.



What is it that you are suffering from? Jesus healed this condition in a moment of time.

Looking at Scripture:

Behold there came a leper, and worshipped him saying: Lord, if thou wilt, **thou canst** make me clean. And Jesus put **forth his hand, and touched him**, **saying**: I will, be thou clean. And **immediately** his leprosy was cleansed. (Matthew 8:2&3)

And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, **thou canst** make me clean. And Jesus, **moved with compassion**, **put forth his hand, and touched him** and **said** unto him: I will; be thou clean. And as soon as he had spoken, **immediately** the leprosy departed from him and he was cleansed. (Mark 1:40-42)

And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy; who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, **thou canst** make me clean. And he **put forth his hand, and touched him,** saying, I will: be thou clean. **And immediately** the leprosy departed from him.

(Luke 5:12&13)

Notice that in all three accounts, it is told that the leper BELIEVED JESUS COULD cure leprosy. To receive healing, the first thing required is to BELIEVE THAT JESUS CAN HEAL **YOUR** SICKNESS/DISEASE.

Mark tells us that Jesus was moved with compassion, He felt within Himself the sufferings of the leper and WANTED (willed) to do something for him.

Is He still the compassionate one?

Do you believe He is moved with compassion toward you in your illness/infirmary?

Notice that Jesus wasn't moved with compassion TOWARD this particular leper until the man himself called out, "Lord if you will to, you can make me clean!" His cry got Jesus attention. You must make know to God what you want from Him. Your focus toward Him brings His focus on you.

"Lord, if thou wilt....."

This was a legitimate statement. There is no previous record of Jesus healing a leper. Jesus had healed many other conditions and this leper

had heard the report, but he had heard no report of a leper being healed. He pioneered the healing of lepers. Aren't we glad? He asked and Jesus answer settled the matter for other lepers: "I will". We read after that another story of Jesus healing 10 lepers. Through the courage of this one leper, other lepers were healed also. Always let the stories of others being healed be an encouragement to you. Jesus is the same to all who call upon Him.

In receiving healing many times we begin where the leper was: knowing Jesus can, but WILL HE? It must be settled in YOUR heart by the Word of God that it is HIS WILL TO HEAL YOU.

Jesus put forth His hand and touched the man. Jesus is not afraid of whatever ails you. Touching a leper is not recommended even in our day in undeveloped countries. Contagious diseases, deforming diseases, flesh eating diseases do not intimidate or threaten Jesus' power.

"I will, be thou clean!" These words of Jesus to the leper are recorded in all 3 gospels verifying by three witnesses (Matthew, Mark and Luke) that these were His exact words.

The Word and the touch. Jesus said and Jesus did.

The result: immediately the leprosy departed/was cleansed.

What mighty authority and power!

If you need healing, I would suggest that you think about the level of power that manifested to cause the leprosy to IMMEDIATELY depart and the man be cleansed.

Two things occurred here: the diseased tissue was removed and new tissue, bone, muscle was created. Even possibly fingers restored, lips, toes, etc .

Think about that. Pretend **you are there**, watching.

Pretend you are the leper and **sense yourself** being healed in a moment of time.

These kinds of activities on your part prepare your mind and heart with faith for receiving.

You will find yourself 'drifting' out of the land of fear and into the land of faith, KNOWING that wellness is yours! Watch the transformation that takes place.



