

Speaker : Associate Pastor David Seah
Title : A Leper's Plea
Scripture : Matthew 8:1- 4, Mark 1:38-44

Introduction

A Leper's Story

Leprosy was death by inches.

The leper was quarantined, and often banished to a leper colony.

A leper is infected by a condition he did not seek, rejected by those he knew, avoided by people he did not know and condemned to a future he could not bear.

Who do we see in the mirror?

If we stare long and deep enough, we will see a leper.

We all have leprosy of the heart – wounded emotions, bitter memories, illegitimate feelings, warped attitudes and every manner of self-seeking desires that stem from sin.

“¹ When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ² And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed” (Matthew 8:1-3, NKJV).

1. The Plea Involves Making a Choice

The leper chose the path of healing and freedom.

Hasn't Jesus promised us the same, and in fact better? (John 10:10)

But why do we not experience the reality of His promise?

It is because we choose to stay in our condition.

Our condition has become 'painfully comfortable'.

But we have the power to choose otherwise.

2. The Plea Acknowledges God's Sovereign Will

God's will is sovereign. Nothing is beyond His control. This does not imply that God causes everything to happen. Rather, it acknowledges that God allows things to happen.

Though His will is sovereign, it is not hidden. God has revealed His will through His Word.

We are called to trust in His sovereign will. And the posture of trust is worship.

3. The Plea Leads to the Master's Touch

Jesus could have just spoken a word to heal the leper. But Jesus did more.

Verse 3 says - Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, "*I am willing; be cleansed.*"

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities" (Hebrews 4:15a, KJV).

Conclusion

Verse 4 - And Jesus said to him, "*See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.*"

After we have come and worshipped and received our miracle, we can then 'go, show and offer'!