

# Jesus Touches the Untouchables

Hempfield United Methodist Church

"Live Like Christ"

September 30, 2018

**He can  
even  
heal  
leprosy!**



This is huge! Leprosy is the dreaded disease that no one can cure. To be a leper is to be fated to a life of isolation from all of society, even one's family and friends. For the leper, there is no hope. But one leper, hearing that Jesus could cure diseases came to him begging. Jesus was not only willing to heal the man, he even touched him, breaking the long-held social rules of cleanness. Jesus is breaking down all the barriers that separate people. With this healing, everyone can have hope!

Mark 1:39-42

39 He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. 40 Then a man with leprosy came to him and, on his knees, begged him: "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

41 Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched him. "I am willing," he told him. "Be made clean." 42 Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

A man with leprosy came to him.

Jesus was ready to respond to anyone who came to him. Although he had plans, he also lived in the moment. To be an effective servant of Christ, we need to pay attention to the encounters God may bring our way.

Jesus was moved with compassion.

The disciples noticed that although Jesus often healed, this one moved him deeply. Compassion means that we feel pain along with the person we encounter. We should never snuff this emotion but allow it to move us.

Jesus touched him.

Jesus broke down all social convention by touching someone with leprosy. This act would make Jesus unclean, but instead, Jesus demonstrated the power of healing was within him.

The man came with hope.

The leprous man undoubtedly lived among other lepers, but only he had faith enough to come to Jesus. After this healing, many other lepers came to Jesus. We also must open the way of hope not only for ourselves but also for others.

## Scripture *for Further Study*

The healing of the leprous man opened the way for others who suffered with leprosy to come to Jesus for healing. One day, ten lepers approached Jesus to be healed. Read about this in **Luke 17:11-19**

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## Application *for Abundant Living*



The HOLY SPIRIT is represented either by a dove, as the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism in the form of a dove, or a flame, as tongues of fire rested upon the heads of the disciples on the Day of Pentecost

Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within him. The Holy Spirit enables us to see what God is doing. In simple conversations or chance encounters, we can see opportunities for service and witness to build God's kingdom.

Begin every day in prayer asking God to open your eyes to the possibilities God might bring your way.

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## Questions *for Group Discussion*

Who are the untouchables in your life?

How can you bridge the gap?

Have you ever had a chance encounter where you saw God at work?

Have you ever felt God set you in a situation for something special?