

Behold the Man: The Heart of Christ - 8/2/26 Sozo Church - Mark 1:40-45 NLT

1. **"If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean"** – Mark 1:40
 - a. Lepers were the walking dead.
 - b. Lepers lived outside the community and in a continual state of uncleanness.
 - c. Imagine living day in and day out being constantly reminded of how wicked people think you are? That you know who you are and what others think of you and yet no ability to change your situation. That is the state of a leper.
 - d. Lepers in their culture were required to: "live outside the community, wear torn clothing, leave their hair unkempt, cover the lower part of their face, and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!'" – Page 111 Mark Commentary Mark Strauss
 - e. "Leprosy was regarded as a telltale sign that the victim had committed some hidden sin for which God was punishing him measure for measure. Most believed that God alone could heal leprosy." – Clinton Arnold page 217 Matthew, Mark, Luke, John commentary
 - f. **The Lord is not afraid of your doubt or questions.** The leper knew Jesus had the power of God available to him. The leper didn't doubt Jesus' ability to heal, He simply did not see himself as worthy of it.
2. **"Moved with compassion"** – Mark 1:41
 - a. Compassion refers to showing kindness and helping someone in a difficulty.
 - b. Some Greek manuscripts say Jesus was angry or indignant. Jesus was angry at sickness and evil done to the man. Compassion is rooted in a hatred for evil and love for what is right.
 - c. Jesus was not overcome with evil but overcame evil with good.
 - d. Compassion is entering another's pain and suffering and seeking to relieve it.
 - e. Compassion is not because we are good: it's because God is good. Compassion is more than just being a nice to a hurting person. It's seeing a person for who God made them to be. It reaches past the hurt and pain to the core of them. Because they are made in the image and likeness of God it says you are experiencing darkness and evil but Jesus made a way out of that. God heals now and forever
 - f. **Jesus moved toward the man.** God is not afraid of your sin, of your issues, of your uncleanness. This is why Jesus came.
3. **"Be healed"** – Mark 1:41
 - a. **Revelation 3:16-18 NLT:** "You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. ¹⁸ So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see."
4. **"Then Jesus sent him on his way"** – Mark 1:43
5. **"Don't tell anyone about this"** – Mark 1:44
 - a. **Jesus did not want people to seek the miracle, but to seek God.**
 - b. **Do you follow Christ for temporal gain or for eternal truth?**

- c. **Mark 6:5-6 NLT:** “And because of their unbelief, he couldn’t do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.”
 - d. It’s those who are sick who are in need of a physician. Those who recognize their need of saving. Their need of spiritual cleansing.
6. **“Go to the priest” – Mark 1:44**
- a. Every culture has a purity code. Same in Jesus’ day there were acceptable and unacceptable ways to live. When it came to dealing with a perfect and all-powerful God how they knew to interact with Him was taken seriously.
 - b. “The “holy” is set apart from the everyday. It is that which is whole, complete and perfect and therefore stands out as something “other” and awe-inspiring...Many events connected with the life process (like birth, death and sexual intercourse) are thought to be “filled with power” (taboo)...Purification rites are necessary to dispel this power and contain the danger. “To be able to enter into dealings with deity, human beings must set themselves in a fitting, higher state. They must accept purifications to remove or wash away what is unclean...Defilement and unwholeness separated people from contact with the pure and whole God. It is essential to contain and eliminate pollution before entering the presence of the divine...Pollution is dangerous in the presence of a holy God. It disqualifies the person from entering that presence and fellowship and, should he or she be foolish enough to stand before the holy God in an unclean state, threatens obliteration...Defilement means that a line inscribed in God’s ordering of the cosmos has been transgressed, and such disruption of God’s order contains within it the potential for provoking unseen power that may react in a hostile and destructive way....what needs to be done to dispel it, so that access to the holy God and his benefits will remain open...Purity issues undergird morality and the ethos of a group, identify the boundaries of the group, protect the social group from erosion from without the group, and create internal lines within the group, giving structure and hierarchy to the group.” – David DeSilva Pg. 247-249 of *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity*.
 - c. Jesus wanted complete restoration for the man into society, he called the man into his identity as restored in the sight of God and man.
 - d. It was a very frequent occurrence to become ceremonially unclean. It was not a sin to become unclean. But purity returned after a person waited a period of time or through certain rituals.
 - e. We are have all been spiritually impure. Mixing our lives with idols and putting our trust in other things.
 - f. “Also impurity was brought on by contact with foreign gods. This was probably the background of the need for purification when the people returned from exile in Babylon.”¹

¹ W. H. Bellinger Jr., [“Purity, Purification,”](#) in *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, ed. Chad Brand et al. (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1351.

- g. **Mark 7:20-23 NLT:** “It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.”
 - h. To show us that we need a new heart. We are all ceremonially unclean, we are all spiritual lepers, outcasts from God without Christ.
 - i. **John 15:3 NKJV:** “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.” In Christ you have been made holy. He makes you clean.
 - j. All these Old Testament rituals pointed to a time when there would be ultimate cleansing. Jesus as the King showed the presence and power of the kingdom of God where all impurity, all sin, all wickedness, all disease, all demons, and death are defeated has begun in the person of Jesus Christ. The time of the Kingdom has dawned in Jesus where people are instantly healed. Where all those who were far off are now made right with God through faith not through rituals. It is eternal life, it is no longer overcome with evil or able to be tainted by sin.
7. **“But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened” – Mark 1:45**
- a. **Ephesians 2:1-3 NLT:** “Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.”
 - b. In their culture if a benefactor did something great to you, the person would go and share that with people. This wasn’t so much the man being disobedient as his gratitude to Christ.
 - c. When God touches your life, you are grateful forever. God’s compassion in our lives is always shown in our own compassion.
8. **“He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him” – Mark 1:45**
- a. When we show compassion, we will often suffer. The heart of Christ is: I will take your place. The leper had been excluded, cut off from society. Now Jesus was secluded.
 - b. **Isaiah 53:3-6 NLT**
 - c. Jesus was a man of sorrows. He willingly stepped in and took on the burdens, the pains, the penalty of the sins of others and took on the grief and sorrows of others so they could be free.
 - d. In our world where people fight to the top, Jesus fought His way to the bottom to serve. When people expected Him to be a political leader, He came and became a servant of all. The Suffering Servant. His heart is a heart of compassion, and it leads Him to step into suffering.
 - e. We can do nothing but be in awe of that, but stand in absolute surrender and worship Him for His heart of love.