

JESUS IS WILLING TO CLEAN US!
MATTHEW CH8:1-4

RE-CAP

The theme for the first Sunday of the year was *“the place of JESUS in the life of a disciple”*. How did the exercise go? Just in case you missed it, here it is again, reflect on some of the spiritual highs and lows of 2018 and from the following 10 areas, rank them between 1-10, with 1 being the biggest priority in your life and 10 being the least priority (each number can only be used once!) What ranking would you give them based on 2018 and what ranking would you like for 2019?

2018

2019

GOD
MARRIAGE/SINGLENESS
FAMILY
WORK/RETIREMENT/STUDIES
EXTENDED FAMILY
HEALTH
FRIENDSHIPS
OPPORTUNITIES
RECREATION AND REST
ENJOYING CHURCH

JESUS makes real change possible and permanent! As we hear the words of JESUS and put them into practice, we build our lives on Him, as the rock of our lives, so as the storms of life hit us, with various degrees of hardness, because the foundations are built on JESUS our lives will not give way like sand! When JESUS is given His rightful place in the centre of all aspects of our lives, the foundations are right!

LEPROSY

Leprosy might begin with little nodules which go on to ulcerate. The ulcers develop a foul discharge; the eyebrows fall out; the eyes become staring; the vocal cords become ulcerated, the voice becomes hoarse and the breath wheezes. The hands and feet always ulcerate, slowly the sufferer becomes a mass of ulcerated growths. Eventually the nerve trunks are affected, loss of sensation occurs and a whole hand or foot may drop off. This condition could last for twenty or thirty years.

Along with this, the person with leprosy at Jesus' time was banished from the community (Leviticus Ch13:45-46)! They were made to walk about shouting

“unclean” should they come into contact with other human beings!

CONFIDENCE IN JESUS V2

Confidence – The leper realised that in the presence of Jesus was the presence of God! Reverence – He knelt before Jesus! Humility – He says to Jesus “Lord if you are willing you can make me clean”. He comes to Jesus expecting divine help! What will Jesus do?

CLEANED BY JESUS V3

In 1987, Princess Diana of Wales visited AIDS patients at a hospital in London. A famous photograph showed her shaking a patient's hand without wearing gloves. The gesture challenged the once-common (but incorrect) belief that HIV or AIDS could be transmitted by touch. The moment is emblematic of Diana's unwavering compassion for other people. One of her finest humanitarian moments took place in a single instant on April 19, 1987. That day, Diana arrived at London Middlesex Hospital to open the UK's first unit dedicated to treating people with HIV and AIDS, she did something that history would remember forever: She shook the hand of an AIDS patient without wearing gloves. Jesus has compassion on the man and responds in cleaning him “I am willing, be clean”.

COMMANDED BY JESUS V4

Jesus was telling the man not to neglect the treatment available (Lev Ch14:1-32). We must do all that we can do before God's power may co-operate with our efforts!

Miracles will attest the authenticity of the Gospel Message. Jesus did not want the crowd clamouring for the miracles, His primary mission is to bring forgiveness of sins and to reconcile sinful man to a Holy God!

APPLICATION

The greatest sermon ever preached had just been preached! The fact that Matthew then records for us that Jesus immediately after His descending from the mountain heals a leper, someone who had been banished from the community because he was “unclean”, clearly attests to who Jesus is! He is God's Son who has come to clean us from SIN!

The Gospel is truth and will tell us how to live, what to expect and what the future has in store for us!