



Leprosy
Healed

Leprosy Healed

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture. Today we get to examine an undenied genuine miracle of Jesus Christ.

✝ While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” Nowhere in scripture or Jewish Law was permission for a Leper to seek healing from a Prophet. Luke 5:12 ESV

As Jesus was continuing His Missionary Ministry throughout Galilee He was approached by a man with Leprosy. It first of all should be noted here that by the Law of Moses found within the Old Testament of Leviticus chapters 13 & 14 this poor soul was each isolated and totally ignored by all.

As in by all Jewish Law this man was to keep to himself, and if he traveled about to obtain necessities or medicine he literally in Jesus Time- had to keep a mask over his face not unlike Covid 19 protocols. Also, he even had to announce loudly to anyone drawing near to him that he was “Unclean, Unclean!”

✝ The leper who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ ⁴⁶ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean; he shall dwell alone in a habitation outside the camp.

Leviticus 13:45-46 RSV

Get that?

This no doubt means that as this Leprous man legally announced himself loudly as “unclean” as he approached Jesus and the thronging crowds including the Disciples whom attended Christ- they all most likely ran. It was what they were trained to do from the time they were children attending Synagogue.

As in to avoid the unclean immediately at all cost. So, this man with leprosy along with his physical disfigurement and his pain or technically the lack there of, also added was his stigma of societal shame.

We do read a lot about this ancient disease within Biblical writ, so what exactly is Leprosy?

Today Leprosy is know officially as Hansen’s disease.

It is actually an infectious skin disease caused by a long enduring bacteria called Mycobacterium leprae. This loathsome foul disease was untreatable in Jesus Time, but thank GOD today it is actually somewhat rare and is fully curable.

Leprosy is spread by sneezing or coughing or by actual long term physical contact.

Of course in the 1st century people suffering from leprosy were treated as outcasts.

Again- then, there was no cure for this disease, which gradually left a person disfigured and additionally with the loss of fingers, toes, & limbs followed by death not by the disease but by secondary infections.

Leprosy is thought to have originated in the hot and humid far east by mold and mildew.

Having migrated by the trade caravans into the also hot middle east.

Not much has changed disease and sickness still do travel with us wherever we go in the 21st century.

The word leprosy is translated from a Hebrew term which means “a smiting” and the Greek word # 3014 which means “scaly” as in scabby.

In Jesus Time a superstition of tradition was supposed that anyone who contracted Leprosy was because of some secret sin that they had before Almighty Jehovah. This cruel false assumption was common for the people of Israel to proclaim about many ailments or even bad tidings of news or even circumstances of happenstance negatively befalling an individual. “That GOD had afflicted them for some secret Sin.” Childlessness, Leprosy, being Poor, or Blind these 4- were the things the Pharisee’s considered to be punishments from GOD for some secret Sin. In Jesus Time this also often extended to the lame or infirm.

Leprosy was actually called "Tzaratt" and known as "the finger of GOD." In Jesus Time a Leper was perceived to be deservingly stricken by GOD for some secret sin & as such their reputation was automatically marginalized despite any good they may have ever done & placed into a life of isolation. Think about that- Lepers were excommunicated and downtrodden simply because they got sick. When the religious elite such as the Pharisees allowed such shunning- the rejection of individuals whom were actually sick, it was perceived those in need would burden them being Israel's purveyors of peace. Banishment relieved the Pharisee's of any responsibility for those sick as in any mercy for their care and welfare. It was far easier and just more convenient to simply call the Leprous the "living dead." Simply because the Pharisees no longer had any further use- or need of anyone, no matter who they were, when they; the Pharisees, perceived someone as sick or compromised.

Besides if actual physicians could not heal them; then there was no way false religious teachers could.

Get that? Another reason that the Pharisees and Sadducees had to fear Christ our Lord.

Jesus being Divine could and often did heal Lepers- while they could not.

Now some Synagogues particularly within Galilee that were more sympathetic & humane, they actually had Leper sections for Worship service & Prayers of petition before the Lord. Of course even these few were isolated by walls and had strict rules upon entrance and exiting by those afflicted.

For a Leper to be caught out and about the punishment was 40 stripes save one & it is needless to say that anyone stricken with this dreadful skin disease; they would not wish to bring a scourging upon themselves. Also the meaning of the Leprous man's words do in fact indicate he had Faith in Jesus that He could heal him because the man stated; "Lord if you are willing I shall be healed."

Continuing

✝ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said.

"Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

Matthew 8:3 NIV

Christ our Lord demonstrated His authority over His created world once again by healing this Leprous man, not only with His words as He did for the Nobleman's son found within John chapter 4, but this time by His touch.

Get that?

This means by Leviticus chapters 13-14 Jesus just became ceremonially unclean.

Or at least he would have been unclean- except this man no longer had Leprosy. He was clean.

This poor soul unclean and untouchable for how long only Heaven knew- who's first touch once restored was by His Creator, Holy GOD Triune the 2nd part of He.

1 of 3. This be: Father ~ Son ~ Spirit = Holy Trinity. (Each individual yet part of THE greater sum.)

Continuing

✝ And He (Jesus) sternly warned him (healed man) and immediately sent him away, ⁴⁴ and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." Get that? an as of yet anonymous testimony of healing.

Mark 1:43-44 NASB

There are several reasons as to Why? Jesus did not want the man to publicly proclaim this miracle that he had just received from the Lord. First of course was that the crowds were already starting to grow unmanageable in size as they were flocking unto the Good Shepherd Christ our Lord.

It was Jesus' intention to travel within Galilee town by town but the crowds slowed Him down.

Also Jesus knew that Israel still did not understand that as Messiah He had to first prepare His one and only "Way" for us by GOD'S Grace of Faith- of being redeemed and restored Spiritually in order to be eligible to enter into GOD'S Kingdom. You know "Born Again." The Jews will soon want to skip past all of that & just declare Him King- so Christ would have to act for Israel right here right now.

Jesus was already starting to become weary of Israel only wanting to use Him for whatever miracle they could get out of Him. They still did not accept the changes He was now teaching about the Good News of His Gospel. Miracles were evidence of His Word- not the point of His Life as our Christ. Of course Jesus is Christ & will institute GOD'S "Thy Kingdom come" when He returns at His Second coming Advent. But first He had to come and prepare His "Way" for us to be able to receive in belief GOD'S Kingdom by redemption and restoration. Our Salvation by Christ's Justification.

✝ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 5:1 KJV

So, Jesus had instructed this formerly Leprous man not to say anything until he had 1st presented himself before a priest within the Temple in Jerusalem. Obviously Christ our Lord wanted the man now restored to physical health to fulfill GOD'S Law. This in a timely manor so the Pharisees would not as of yet had heard the news of this supernatural healing by Jesus before the man arrived unto them.

Why? That the man might not be denied. (Don't like the miracle worker, then deny His miracle.)

As in officially allowed to return to his former life. The Pharisees had legal procedures as too leprosy- Talmud tractate N'ga'im based upon Leviticus chapters 13 & 14 demanded the man show himself. & do not forget Leviticus chapters 13 & 14 contain GOD'S rules for the prevention of the spread of contagious disease thousands of years before medicine or science even thought of such things.

So, once officially cleared to go back into society, the priests would then issue the man a legal document that his restoration was in accordance to all legal and religious rites of Jewish law and custom.

Get that? The Pharisee's had taken a dislike to Christ and as such they might have simply continued to shun this man or even worse- this outcast could easily have been executed to keep this miracle silent. Because as an "excommunicated" as in banished from all Jewish social & religious privileges this former Leper was already considered to be dead.

In fact the historical recordings of Josephus within Antiquities 3:261-254 this refers to a shunned Leper as one "living death." Simply put Jesus knew that no one would have questioned his disappearance.

Jesus had not only healed this man physically- He had also sent him too be restored legally & socially. This be unto good standing within the Jewish community before the Pharisee's could & would react deceitfully when they learned that Christ had preformed this miracle.

Because: All Jews were taught by the Pharisees that when "The" Messiah arrives, He alone will be able to heal Lepers, as in even yet another reason for the Pharisee's to act deviously unto the restored man. Because Messiah Jesus with human compassion & Divine action- had miraculously restored this man to health.

Continuing

✝ But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

Mark 1:45 NASB

The restored formerly Leprous man in his exuberance of joy failed to adhere to the wishes of the very one who had healed him. Christ our Lord had formerly instructed the man to keep his silence about Jesus healing him. As in now even larger impassable crowds were before and behind Jesus, seeking Him not for the Saving Gospel of the Kingdom of GOD, but rather for His impressive efforts as a genuine miracle worker. Thusly making it harder for Jesus to travel.

Again this is Why? My friends Jesus demands disciplined Disciples- so that we do not hinder Him.