

The Savior's Touch

Luke 5:12-16

The Condition:

- Leprosy was a slow, lonely death.
- Leprosy was the disease most associated with sin.
- Leprosy locked its victims in a cell of loneliness and hopelessness and had thrown away the key.

1. The Spirituality of Approachability:

- The religious leaders chose a "strategy" of isolation.
- Their thinking was that sin and suffering was contagious.
- This "strategy" can create a greenhouse for destructive sins like pride, self-righteousness and exclusiveness.
- Holiness was synonymous with rigidity, sternness, and distance.
- Jesus demonstrated a spirituality that featured approachability.
- In your spiritual development, is your approachability increasing?
- Are listening skills increasing? Are Judging skills decreasing?

2. The Scandalous Touch:

- Jesus touched the leper before He was clean.
- With His words Jesus could have healed his disease, His touch would heal this man's soul.
- As a foreshadowing of the cross, the touch demonstrated the willingness of Jesus to take on our sin, so we could take on His life.
- The world is filled with people for whom God is saying "please touch them".
- The price tag they wear reads "_____".

3. The Life-Giving Infection:

- *To touch a leper would render a person ... or*
- *The leper did not infect Jesus with the disease: Jesus infected the leper with His life.*
- *Life, faith, and goodness can also be contagious.*
- *Images of yeast used by Jesus: 1) sin and legalism; 2) the Kingdom of God.*
- *How do we know the leper caught "the bug, the bug of life"?*

Conclusion:

- *We live on a contaminated planet.*
- *We are called to be contagious Christians.*
- *Let us touch the "untouchable", love the "unlovable", and forgive the "unforgivable".*