

A Wonderfully Willing Heart

Mark 1:40-45

Background: Leviticus 13:1-6, 45-46; 14

The Jewish word for unclean is *tame*, often translated *defiled*.

Five categories in which you could be pronounced defiled or unclean:

- physically
- sexually
- morally
- ceremonially
- religiously

Defilement applies to lepers both morally and physically.

I. The Leper's Wretched Life

“And a leper came to Him...”

His **need** made Him **desperate**.

I. The Leper's Wretched Life

"...beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him..."

His humility:

His need made him humble.

I. The Leper's Wretched Life

"If you are willing..."

His faith

I. The Leper's Wretched Life

"...You can make me clean."

"[The leper] wanted to be free from the disease. But perhaps even more, he longed to be free from the stigma, isolation, and rejections which belonged to it." *(Sinclair Ferguson)*

II. The Lord's Willing Love

His compassion (v41): Only Mark mentions the “*compassion*” of Jesus toward this man.

“*orgistheis*”: angry, enraged, to be exasperated

II. The Lord's Willing Love

*“So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord; and **He could bear the misery of Israel no longer.**” (Judges 10:16)*

The literal rendering, which is expressed in the margin note of the NASB, reads, *“His soul was short with the misery.”*

II. The Lord's Willing Love

“[God] became **indignant** over the misery of Israel” (RSV), much as Jesus does here. If ‘anger’ was the original reading, it must clearly mean that Jesus was indignant at the **misery** of the leper (so John 11:33-38), for Jesus willingly healed him. As though the leprosy were **dispelled by holy wrath**, Mark declares, ‘Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.’”

(James Edwards)

II. The Lord's Willing Love

Jesus is angry at **forces that oppose God:**

- demons (Mark 1:25)
- **leprosy** (Mark 1:41)
- the disobedient (Mark 1:43)
- Satan (Matt. 4:10)
- the wicked and hypocritical (John 8:44; Matt. 12:34)
- the unbelieving (John 11:33)

II. The Lord's Willing Love

Sin separates you from

- health
- love
- yourself
- wisdom
- hope
- peace
- knowing God

II. The Lord's Willing Love

But **God** opens our spiritual eyes. **He** reveals to each of us the defilement and deep need of our **leprous hearts**.

II. The Lord's Willing Love

Righteousness is *right-with-Godness!*

“Surely our griefs (sicknesses) He Himself bore, and our sorrows (pains) He carried.” (Is. 53:2)

“...and [Jesus] Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” (1 Pet. 2:24)

II. The Lord's Willing Love

- **Concern for the man**
- **Concern for the law of God**
- **Concern for His ministry and the multitude**

III. The Leper's Response to Jesus (Mark 1:45)

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