

“Clean & Forgiven”
Mark 1:40-2:12
3/3/24
Message 5

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Clean & Forgiven”

- **Review Last Week**

- **The Authority Of Jesus - Mark 1:21-45**

- **Authority In The WORD vs. 21-22**

Mark 1:21–22 (NKJV)

21 *Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught.*

22 *And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

- Jesus went to the Synagogue (Church)
 - So should we
- He Taught with Authority
 - Everyone claims they have authority BUT only the WORD of God has the NEEDED authority in our lives

- **Authority Over Unclean Spirits vs. 23-28**

- Heal the Demon Possessed man
- More Demon Possession to Come
 - We can be pretty sure the more this country slips into the abyss of sin the more demon possession we will see

- **Authority Over Diseases vs. 29-45**

- Healed
 - Peter's Mother N Law
 - Many MORE
 - Cast OUT Many More Demons
- Very Busy
 - **But Got Away to PRAY**
 - Our Example
- Went On to Others towns

Mark 1:38 (NKJV)

38 But He said to them, *"Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."*

- Jesus was moved by His mission not popularity
- Cleaning the Leper
 - Last week we covered to cleansing of the Leper
 - But it was a little faster than God wanted
 - So this week were going to go back and look at it a little
 - PLUS it really fits with our communion message this morning

- **This Morning 2 POWERFUL Truthe to being Clean & Forgiven**

- Jesus Cleanses A Leper vs. 1:40-45
- Jesus Forgives The Paralytic vs. 2:1-12

Jesus Cleanses A Leper vs. 1:40-45

- **First: A Leper Comes to Jesus vs. 40a**

- **1st Leprosy - Horrific Diseases v. 40a**

Mark 1:40 (NKJV)

40 Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.”

- **In Bible Times**

- **NO Cure!!!**

- Leprosy was one of the most feared diseases of all...
- According to the Talmud (Rabbinical Commentary)

- It was considered the MOST UNCLEAN (contaminating) thing that could happen to a person

- They also thought it was Judgment from God!

- They believed it was because of some secret sin
- God has inflicted this person with leprosy... to exposing your sin
- That was the stigma that went along with it

- A leper was not allowed into normal society

- They had to live away from healthy people
- Out of towns and villages
- If they came within 100 ft of someone, they had to cry out “unclean”

- It was truly a living death

- **Today –**

- It's Known as Hansen's Disease today
 - After the man named Hansen identified the bacteria that causes the disease
- From his and other's research
 - Treatments have been developed to help tackle the disease

- **Leprosy – Symptoms**

- Begins as small red spots on the skin.
- Before too long the spots get bigger
- It starts to turn white, with a shiny or scaly appearance.
- The spots soon spread over the body and hair begins to fall out –
- First from the head, then even from the eyebrows.
- As things get worse, fingernails and toenails become loose; they start to rot and eventually fall off.
- Then the joints of fingers and toes begin to rot and fall off, piece by piece.
- Gums begin to shrink, and they can't hold the teeth anymore, so each tooth is lost.
- Leprosy keeps eating away at the face until the nose, the palate, and even the eyes rot –
- The leper wastes away until he or she dies.

- **Leprosy is Symbolic of SIN**

- It starts below the surface of the skin
 - Just Like Sin starts in our minds
- Spreads throughout the body
 - Then it goes to heart
 - We act out what our mind think
- Seen as tumor like swellings appear on the skin
 - Affects our physical life
- Loose Sensitivity
 - It deadened your nerves...
 - You could no longer feel pain
 - We become so used to our sins we can't see how much damage it is doing to ourselves and others
- Thru infections, your Body began to rot and fall away...
 - We began to rot away spiritually
- It was said that in you could smell a leper from a 100 feet away
 - People don't want to be around us

- **2nd Application**

- **1st Sin like Leprosy Spreads / Destroys**

- Starts small below the surface of the skin

- Sin can have a Very Small beginning
 - A little lie here
 - Dishonesty there
 - A little compromise...
 - But if undealt with it only Grows
 - It begins to Spread and Affects the Entire Body
 - It Defiles & Destroys
- Illustration:
 - French aristocrat Baron Richard d'Arcy kept a strange pet in his home: a two-year-old lion.
 - Started out as a little cub.
 - But One night in 1977, the baron tried to make his pet enter the bathroom, where it usually spent the night, but it refused to go and attacked him. In a matter of minutes, the lion had clawed the baron to death.
- Sin Destroys
 - Starts off small like that little lion cub - maybe playful –
 - But it grows...it ultimately destroys a person
 - That's why Christians should deal with sin definitely and drastically
 - We must not permit any "pet" sins to dwell in our lives

▪ **2nd Sin is like leprosy in that it DESENSITIZES a person**

- The longer a person continues in sin,
 - The more they lose their Sensitivity Concerning their sin
 - They can reach a point like the Leper - Past Feeling
- If we can sin without the conviction of the HS we are in trouble
 - Ask the Lord for help!!!
- Illustration: "How Times Have Changed"
 - In the 1990 US News & World Report article
 - Public school teachers rate the top disciplinary problems

▪ 1940	1990
▪ Talking out of turn	Drug abuse
▪ Chewing gum	Alcohol abuse
▪ Making noise	Pregnancy
▪ Running in the halls	Suicide
▪ Cutting in line	Rape
▪ Dress code violations	Robbery
▪ Littering	Assault
 - In 2012
 - 68 percent of elementary teachers
 - 64 percent of middle school teachers
 - 53 percent of high school teachers
 - Say behavior issue are a Major Issue

- Today

- Behavior Issues are still a concern
- BUT - Today our school system is PROMOTING EVIL
 - Trans Closest
 - Homosexual Agenda
 - Transgender and LGBT material have been put into the curriculum
 - Material that included “education” on lubricants, sex toys and anal sex.

- Our culture has been totally desensitized by its sin

Ephesians 4:18–19 (NKJV)

18 *having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;*

19 *who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

- *“And gradually, though no one remembers exactly how it happens, the unthinkable becomes tolerable. And then acceptable. And then legal. And then applaudable.” – Joni Eareckson Tada*

- The tragic effect of sin
- You are being destroyed and you don't even know it

- **Show Clip**

- Set Video – Jack Hibbs Prayer before Congress

- Condemned his prayer
 - A nation that believes it is OKAY when sin is running rampant is a nation on the way out
- How About US (The Church)
 - As Individuals
 - Are we allowing sin in the camp of our hearts
 - Watch your life – Keep seeking God to be holy
 - Stay away from the thing Jesus tells us to stay away from
 - As The Church
 - Why are pastors
 - Promoting going to gay weddings?
 - Down Playing sin
 - Skipping over hard passages of scripture
 - As a church we MUST STAND strong on the Word of God
 - We want to encourage HOLINESS in each other
 - Yet we also stand strong on His Compassion

• **Second: Imploring Him, kneeling down to Him v. 40b**

- **1st Imploring Him v. 40b**

Mark 1:40 (NKJV)

40 Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.”

▪ **Imploring Him, kneeling down to Him:**

- The leper was so desperate in his approach to Jesus.
 - No one had ever really be Healed
 - Everyone knew ONLY God could heal a leper.
 - There was no cure, and no one just got better.
 - A leper could never get better without a direct healing from God.
 - I KNOW You can make me clean:
 - The leper really believed in the power of Jesus, and had confidence that Jesus could heal him.
- Shows Humility
 - He Needed HELP OUTSIDE of himself
 - He was throwing himself humbly at the mercy of Jesus!
 - He didn't come demanding of Jesus - humbly begging - asking
 - He realized his plight rested purely in Jesus' hands
 - Same with Us

- We must come and keep coming HUMBLY to Jesus

- **Rock of Ages**

- Nothing in my hand I bring,
- Simply to thy cross I cling;
- Naked, come to thee for dress,
- Helpless, look to thee for grace;
- Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
- Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

- **If You are willing, You can make me clean.”**

- Make me clean:
 - The leper knew what he needed from Jesus.
 - He didn't ask to be healed, but cleansed.
 - The leper needed much more than healing.
 - God is the ONLY one who can HEAL / CLEAN us from SIN
- His faith
 - But he also said Lord if You are WILLING you can make me clean
 - In those words we see his faith.
 - He knew Jesus was able...
 - He knew that Jesus could make him clean
 - The question he needed answered was...is He Willing
 - It ALL About if God is Willing

- In regards to healing SIN yes He is!!!

- **The Sincere Cry For Help is a PRAYER that Jesus will always answer**

- **Third: Jesus Cleanses the Leper vs. 41-45**

Mark 1:41–45 (NKJV)

41 Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, *“I am willing; be cleansed.”*

42 As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.

43 And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once,

44 and said to him, *“See that you say nothing to anyone; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”*

45 However, he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction.

- **1st Jesus, moved with Compassion**

- **1st Notice those beautiful words, He “Touched Him”**

- He didn’t have to touch him...
 - He could have simply spoke the words
 - But this man hasn’t been touched in years
- The Lord is doing more than simply cleansing him of leprosy
 - He’s demonstrating the loving heart of God
- Do we Demonstrate God Love?!
 - Illustration

- His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college.
- He is brilliant.
- Kinda obscure and very, very bright.
- He became a Christian while attending college.
- Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church.
- They want to develop a ministry to the students, but are not sure how to go about it.
- One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair.
- The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat. The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat.
- By now people are looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Bill gets closer and closer and closer to the pulpit and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet.
(Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this church before!)
- By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the minister realizes that from way at the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill.

- Now the deacon is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, a three-piece suit, and a pocket watch. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly.
- He walks with a cane and as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves, “You can’t blame him for what he’s going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor?”
- It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy.
- The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man’s cane.
- All eyes are focused on him. You can’t even hear anyone breathing.
- The people are thinking, “The minister can’t even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do”.
- And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor.
- With great difficulty he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won’t be alone.
- Everyone chokes up with emotion.
- When the minister gains control he says, “What I’m about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget.” Author unknown

- LET'S Be willing to Touch & Love the Untouchable & Unlovable
 - So glad our church is loving and kind to ALL who seek Jesus
- **2nd Fulfill the Law**
 - Jesus then commanded him to go and do what the Law required
 - (Leviticus 13 & 14)
 - As a testimony to them (priests)
 - The Bible tells us that ONLY two people who were healed of leprosy
 - Miriam's seven-day leprosy (Numbers 12)
 - Elisha's healing of Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-15)
 - So the Priest had to wonder why Leviticus 13 & 14 was there
 - Leviticus 13 & 14
 - Speaks Symbolically about the Death and Resurrection of Jesus
 - The 2 birds represent Jesus Christ.
 - 1st Bird dies and spills its blood (scarlet).
 - The wood and scarlet are dipped in the blood (the cross).
 - The hyssop is simply a tool to sprinkle the mixture on the cleansed leper.
 - 2nd Bird is covered with the bloody water

- But is allowed to fly away. (Kind of like resurrection)
- The next part of the ritual involved Blood and Oil.
 - The priest would take Blood from a sacrifice and
 - Put it on the tip of the right ear
 - Right thumb
 - Right big toe of the cleansed leper.
 - The blood speaks of the cleansing of a man's
 - Mind (ear)
 - The things he does (thumb)
 - The places he goes (big toe).
- Now Jesus told him not to say anything, but that didn't happen
 - It was probably to keep the multitudes down
 - He wasn't ready to reveal Himself as the Messiah yet

Jesus Forgives The Paralytic vs. 2:1-12

• First: The Determination Of These Men vs. 1-4

- **1st Back Home – Peter's House vs. 1-2a**

Mark 2:1–2 (NKJV)

1 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.

2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

- Jesus is in the HOUSE

- Most Likely Peter's Home
- **Immediately**
 - Marks favorite word
 - At this point in His ministry,
 - Jesus attracted crowds wherever He went.
- 2nd And He preached the Word to them v. 2b

Mark 2:2 (NKJV)

*2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. **And He preached the word to them.***

- **He PREACHED The Word to THEM**
 - He Preached –
 - Greek: Laleo –
 - Means: To utter a voice or emit a sound; to speak;
 - This is not the usual word for “preach” and in a loud proclamation.
 - This is a word that speaks of “lovely” sounds.
 - This word Preached isn't one of the 2 most common Greek words used, “to proclaim, or to bring good tidings”. –
 - Instead it is λαλεο “to speak”. It means a conversation, or a conversation kind of tone.
- Preaching the WORD
 - This was His primary FOCUS
 - Not the Feeding, Healing, Miracles, etc...

- BUT Preaching
- Faith Comes by HEARING –
 - Hearing God's Word
 - Transformation – Comes from the Word of God
 - *Stedman; "It is clear that he was avoiding the streets because they had been turned into a healing campaign. Everywhere he went people besieged him with requests for healing and the casting out of demons, so that he was unable to do what he had come to do primarily, which was to preach the Word."*
- Preaching – Teaching God's Word is a top Priority
 - Faith Comes by HEARING –
 - Transformation comes only by God's Word
- **3rd When they could not come near Him because of the crowd vs. 3-4**

Mark 2:3–4 (NKJV)

3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.

4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

▪ **They Came to Jesus**

- They Know their only hope for their friend is Jesus
- Application
 - Jesus is the ONLY hope for this lost world
 - We need to bring people to Jesus

- One soul at a time
- Be praying for God to open people's eyes

▪ **Because of the crowded room**

- Because there was SO MANY they had to look at other options
 - The friends of the paralyzed man had to lower him down through the roof.
 - This was an unusual way to interrupt a sermon.
 - Uncovered the roof:
 - The roof was usually accessible by means of an outside stairway and was made of thatch, dirt or tile laid over beams.
 - It could be taken apart, and the friends of the paralyzed man lowered their friend down to Jesus.

▪ **So when they had broken through, they let down the bed**

- This proved the determination and faith of the friends of the paralytic man.
- They counted on Jesus healing their friend!

▪ **His friends had Great Dedication**

- Do we know the names of his friends
 - So many unnamed heroes in the Bible
- Pastor Ray Stedman uncovered their names:

- Frank Faith, Harry Hope, Larry Love, & Dan Determination.

- Frank Faith said, “I believe we can get this man to Jesus.”

- Harry Hope said, “I believe there is hope for this man”

- Larry Love said, “I really love this guy. I hate his sin, but love him.”

- Dan Determination said, “Let’s roll!”

- **Application**

- We’re are the BODY of Christ

- It takes ALL of US – NOT just pastors & Leaders ALL the Body

- A Lot of NO Name people in heaven

- **Second: The Declaration Of Jesus vs. 5-7**

- **1st When Jesus saw their faith v. 5a**

Mark 2:5 (NKJV)

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “*Son, your sins are forgiven you.*”

- **He looked at them and saw their faith.**

- Their faith could be seen

- **2nd Son, your sins are forgiven you v. 5b**

Mark 2:5 (NKJV)

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “*Son, your sins are forgiven you.*”

- We can imagine how the friends on the roof felt
 - Hey we wanted him healed
 - We said nothing about sin...
 - Yet, Jesus knew his greatest need
 - For his sins to be forgiven
 - PLEASE NOTE
 - Jesus did not mean that the paralyzed man was especially sinful or that his paralysis was directly caused by sin.
 - Instead, He addressed the man's greatest need and the common root of all pain and suffering – man's sinful condition.
- **Application**
 - **1st Our Faith**
 - Does your relationship with the Lord affect your actions?
 - Can Jesus see your faith?
 - Can the people around you see that you're different?
 - They'll pay attention to your words if your actions say something too.
 - **2nd Forgiveness**
 - The debt is paid!
 - When a sinner asks God for forgiveness

- God is able to apply the payment necessary to resolve the debt.
- The consequence of sin is death.
- To be forgiven correctly, someone needs to pay the debt, someone needs to die.
- God sent His Son Jesus to die on a cross, paying for my sin, dying in my place, so I could be correctly forgiven.
- The debt is replaced with righteousness
 - God has let go of the debt I owed, and replaced it with the righteousness of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- **3rd Who can forgive sins but God alone? Vs. 6-7**

Mark 2:6–7 (NKJV)

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,
7 “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

- The scribes
 - They correctly believed that only God could forgive sins
 - They are even correct for examining this new teacher.
 - Their error was in refusing to see who Jesus is:
 - God the Son, who has the authority to forgive sins.

• Third: The Demonstration Of Jesus Power & Authority vs. 8-12

- **1st Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus v. 8**

Mark 2:8 (NKJV)

8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, *“Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?”*

- These scribes knew Jesus could read their evil hearts.
- This should have helped persuade them that Jesus really was/is God, having power to forgive sins.

○ **2nd Which is easier v. 9**

Mark 2:9 (NKJV)

9 *Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’?*

- For men, both real forgiveness and the power to heal are impossible
 - But for God, both are easy.

○ **3rd The Son of Man v. 10-11**

Mark 2:10–11 (NKJV)

10 *But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic,*

11 *“I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”*

- Jesus often referred to Himself with this title. The idea is not of “perfect man” or “ideal man” or “common man,” but a reference to Daniel 7:13-14, where the coming King of Glory, coming to judge the world, has the title Son of Man.

○ **4th Immediately he arose: Imagine the tension in this scene v. 12**

Mark 2:12 (NKJV)

12 *Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”*

- All were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”
- Jesus carried the day, and the people were amazed to see the power of God in action.

Closing

- The Wonderful Words of Jesus to the Leper
 - I AM WILLING
 - What Leprosy are you dealing with today
 - Listen He is Able & He is willing to cleanse you
- What Sin has you Paralyzed
 - Listen He has Forgiven you
 - HE IS WILLING – His ARMS are OUTSTRETCHED for you
 - Receive a fresh and a new His Cleansing and Forgiveness today

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*