



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Leper is Cleansed

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Luke, in chapter four, describes a hostile witness, tempter and adversary, the devil and his demons. After Jesus had spent forty days and nights in the wilderness and not having food during that time and under unsuccessful continual temptations or testing by the devil, Jesus returned to His hometown, Nazareth in Galilee, to begin His earthly ministry. Jesus shared that no prophet is welcome in his hometown and likewise His hometown rejected Jesus and attempted to kill Him. Jesus escaped and traveled 20 miles northwest to Capernaum, on the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. As was His custom, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading scripture and teaching. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities and physically healed people of demons, disease and death.

“While He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man covered with leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” And immediately the leprosy left him. And He ordered him to tell no one, “But go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, just as Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.” (Luke 5:12-16 NASB)

The leper submitted to the will of Christ. Luke describes that a leper ask submissively to Jesus for healing, if He is willing. Dr. Luke describes that this man was covered with leprosy or full of leprosy. Leprosy was the most dreaded disease of that time. Anyone who contracted leprosy was not to have contact with healthy people and must live outside the city gates.

The disease rendered the leper as an outcast. The leper had heard about and believed in Jesus' healing power and authority as Lord and had come to ask Jesus for healing, if it was His will.

Jesus was willing. Jesus reached for the man and touched him. While it was against the Law of Moses for a leper to touch anyone, it was also unclean for a healthy person to touch a leper. The leper, through the hand of Jesus' touch and the command by Jesus to “be cleansed”, was immediately completely healed and totally whole.

Jesus directed the leper. First, the man was directed by Jesus to tell no one of the healing. Large crowds were following Jesus and it was becoming increasingly difficult Him to go into the cities and preach, due to the large crowd. Additionally, Luke records that Jesus then told the man to present himself to the priest and make an offering for cleansing, as directed by the Law of Moses. (Lv. 13 & 14) Jesus continued honored the laws that were directed by God.

The leper's response. Luke shares that large crowds followed and gathered by Jesus. While Luke does not record what the healed leper did, the Gospel of Mark reports that the healed man, contrary to Jesus' directions, proclaimed and told many of his healing (Mk 1:45). Additionally, Mark shares that Jesus then was unable to go into the cities because of the crowds and so He ministered in the countryside.

Jesus' response, He prayed. Luke continues to record a custom of Jesus, prayer. Jesus often went off into the wilderness and prayed. Jesus was spiritually fed by consistent private non-distracted prayer time with His Father.

For Your Consideration:

- The leper knew he was sick and believed that Jesus could heal him, if it was Jesus' will to do so. Do you have a submissive faith, similar to the leper, to accept God will?
- Are you obedient to God's direction for your life?
- Do you spend consistent private non-distracted time with God?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44