

Touching the Untouchable

Mark 1:40-45

⁴⁰ And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” ⁴¹ Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” ⁴² And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ and 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, for a proof to them.” ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter. ¹

God is able, but is he willing? (40)

Leprosy was more than a disease. It was a sentence.

Without presumption (If you are willing) and without doubting (you can make me clean), the leper humbly begged Jesus to heal him.

Compassion moves us to scandalous actions (41-42)

Moved by compassion, Jesus touched the untouchable. His response was no less scandalous than the leper’s request was audacious.

The healing was instantaneous, complete, and visible.

Cleansing + Obedience = Convincing Proof (43-44)

Jesus charged the man to keep silent.

Jesus told the man to follow the instructions of the law. Only then would he be allowed back into society.

“I can’t stop talking about Jesus” (45)

Instead of staying silent, the man spoke of his healing everywhere.

As a result of the man’s testimony, Jesus was inundated with people. Though he withdrew to remote places, people kept coming.

Because Christ touched us, we should tell others about him.

¹ *The Holy Bible: English standard version.* Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.