

LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS  
COME, WEEK 28

TITLE: THE UNTOUCHABLES

TEXT: LUKE 5:12-16

INTRODUCTION: (1) IN THE ANCIENT WORLD  
LEPROSY WAS THE MOST TERRIBLE OF ALL  
DISEASES.

**\* E.W.G. MASTERMAN WRITES: "NO OTHER  
DISEASE REDUCES A HUMAN BEING FOR SO  
MANY YEARS TO SO HIDEOUS A WRECK." (END  
QUOTE)**

**\*\* MICHAEL WILCOOK WRITES: "THE LEPER WAS  
NOT JUST ILL, HE WAS AN OUTCAST. HE HAD  
NOT SIMPLY LOST HIS HEALTH; HE HAD LOST HIS  
FAMILY, HIS FRIENDS, HIS HOME, HIS  
LIVELIHOOD. NO ONE WOULD, INDEED NO ONE  
WAS ALLOWED TO, ASSOCIATE WITH HIM." (END  
QUOTE)**

\*\*\* AND BELOVED, IN A WORD, LEPERS WERE THE UNTOUCHABLES, THEIR DISEASE WAS A LIVING DEATH.

\*\*\*\* FOR BEYOND THE PHYSICAL DISCOMFORT THEY SUFFERED, PEOPLE IN LEPER COLONIES WERE SEGREGATED FROM SOCIETY AS I JUST ALLUDED TO.

(2) THEY WERE SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND CEREMONIALLY UNCLEAN IN ISRAEL.

\* IN FACT, IN ISRAEL, THE LOT OF A LEPER WAS SUMMED UP IN LEVITICUS 13:45&46 WHICH SAYS:

V. 45 - AS FOR THE LEPER WHO HAS THE INFECTION, HIS CLOTHES SHALL BE TORN, AND THE HAIR OF HIS HEAD SHALL BE UNCOVERED, AND HE SHALL COVER HIS MUSTACHE AND CRY, **'UNCLEAN! UNCLEAN!'**

V. 46 - HE SHALL REMAIN UNCLEAN ALL THE DAYS DURING WHICH HE HAS THE INFECTION; HE IS UNCLEAN. HE SHALL LIVE ALONE; HIS DWELLING SHALL BE OUTSIDE THE CAMP.

\*\* NOW NOT ONLY WAS THE LEPER FORBIDDEN TO COME NEAR SOMEONE WHO WAS WHOLE, BUT THE CEREMONIAL LAW ALSO FORBADE A WHOLE PERSON FROM TOUCHING A LEPER.

\*\*\* IT WAS PROHIBITED FOR A LEPER TO COME INTO THE CITY LIMITS, BUT EVEN ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY HE WAS REQUIRED TO EITHER WEAR A BELL AROUND HIS NECK OR SHOUT: UNCLEAN! UNCLEAN! TO WARN PEOPLE, LEST THEY BE BROUGHT INTO CONTACT WITH THEM.

\*\*\* **NOW BY JESUS' TIME, RABBINICAL** TEACHING, WITH ITS MINUTE STRICTURES, HAD MADE MATTERS EVEN WORSE.

\*\*\*\* FOR IF A LEPER EVEN STUCK HIS HEAD INSIDE A HOUSE, THE HOUSE WAS PRONOUNCED UNCLEAN.

3. LEPERS HAD TO REMAIN AT LEAST 100 CUBITS AWAY IF THEY WERE UPWIND, AND FOUR CUBITS DOWN WIND.

\* JOSEPHUS, THE JEWISH HISTORIAN, SUMMED IT UP BY SAYING THAT LEPERS WERE TREATED **"AS IF THEY WERE, IN EFFECT, DEAD MEN,"** DEAD MEN WALKING.

\*\* BEYOND THAT, ACCORDING TO WILLIAM BARCLAY, THE LAW ENUMERATED 61 DIFFERENT CONTACTS WITH A LEPER WHICH COULD DEFILE A PERSON, AND THE DEFILEMENT INVOLVED IN CONTACT WITH A LEPER WAS SECOND ONLY TO THE DEFILEMENT INVOLVED IN CONTACT WITH A DEAD BODY.

\*\*\* SO WHEN A PERSON CONTRACTED LEPROSY, NOT ONLY WOULD HE DIE A SLOW DEATH, AND **BE OSTRACIZED FROM SOCIETY, I'M SURE THAT MOST OF THEM WISHED THEY WERE DEAD.**

\*\*\* THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY DISEASE WHICH SO SEPARATED A PERSON FROM OTHER PERSONS AS LEPROSY DID, OUTSIDE OF AIDS AT FIRST AND MAYBE THE EBOLA VIRUS.

\*\*\*\* **AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES OUR TEXT TODAY SO AMAZING!** FOR IT WAS A LEPER WHO CAME TO JESUS AND BOWED DOWN TO HIM, WHO VIOLATED PROTOCOL TO SEE JESUS.

(4) AND IT WAS JESUS WHO STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND AND TOUCHED HIM, A LEPER, AND HEALED HIM. JESUS HEALED A LEPER! HE TOUCHED A LEPER!

\* AND TO A JEW THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANY MORE OF AN AMAZING SENTENCE IN THE N.T. **THAN THE SIMPLE STATEMENT: "AND JESUS STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND AND TOUCHED HIM,"** THE LEPER IN V. 13.

\*\* AND JESUS WILL MANIFEST HIS COMPASSION AND MIGHTY POWER AS HE HEALS THIS MAN OF THIS TERRIBLE DISEASE IN LUKE 5:12-16, WHICH **I'VE TITLED, "THE UNTOUCHABLES."**

**\*\*\* AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT 4 POINTS TODAY IN OUR STUDY OF LUKE 5:12-16.**

\*\*\*\* NO. 1 THE MEETING V. 12; NO. 2 THE MIRACLE, V. 13; NO. 3 THE MEANING OF **CHRIST'S STATEMENT TO THE LEPER, V. 14;** AND NO. 4 THE MULTITUDES, VV. 15&16.

- **SO WE'LL LOOK AT THE** MEETING, THE MIRACLE, THE MEANING AND THE MULTITUDES UNDER THE TITLE OF THE UNTOUCHABLES. AND WITH THAT IN MIND, LOOK AT V. 12 OF LUKE 5 **WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE MEETING.**

## I. THE MEETING, (READ V. 12)

A. NOW WHILE JESUS WAS IN ONE OF THE CITIES, MOST LIKELY IN GALILEE, A MAN SEES JESUS WHO IS COVERED WITH LEPROSY.

\* AND THE GREEK WORD FOR LEPROSY IS LEP-RAH, WHICH IS A GENERAL TERM FOR A NUMBER OF SKIN CONDITIONS, WHICH THE MOST SEVERE OF THOSE IS **HANSEN'S DISEASE**, WHICH IS LEPROSY AS IT IS KNOWN TODAY.

\*\* NOW LUKE SAID THAT THIS MAN WHO CAME TO JESUS WAS "COVERED WITH IT," HE WAS FULL OF LEPROSY WHICH SUGGESTS THAT HIS LEPROSY WAS IN THE MOST EXTREME SENSE OF THE TERM.

\*\*\* NOW THE FACT THAT A MAN COVERED WITH LEPROSY CAME TO JESUS WAS ASTOUNDING IN ITSELF, BECAUSE AS I SAID EARLIER LEPERS WERE FORBIDDEN TO COME CLOSE TO NON-LEPERS.

\*\*\*\* SO THIS MAN TAKES A BIG RISK OF SHOWING UP AT A CROWD OF PEOPLE, HE **COULD HAVE BEEN STONED, BUT HE WASN'T.** AND NO DOUBT A HUGE AISLE OPENED UP IN THE CROWD AS THIS LEPER IS COMING BECAUSE **THEY DON'T WANT TO BE DEFILED.** HE PARTED THE CROWD.

\*\*\*\*\* NOW THERE ARE 4 THINGS THAT STAND OUT ABOUT THIS LEPER IN V. 12, 4 IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER. NO. 1 HE CAME TO JESUS WITH CONFIDENCE.

\*\*\*\*\* HE OBVIOUSLY SENSED A LOVE IN JESUS THAT ALLOWED HIM TO APPROACH HIM WITHOUT FEAR OF REPRISAL SUCH AS BEING **STONED OR EVEN OF REPRIMAND. (HE DIDN'T CARE WHAT OTHERS THOUGHT, HE JUST NEEDED TO GET TO JESUS).**



- HE SOMEHOW KNEW THAT JESUS WAS NEITHER AFRAID OF HIM NOR ASHAMED TO ASSOCIATE WITH HIM. HE DID NOT SHOUT TO JESUS FROM A DISTANCE, AS HE WAS SUPPOSED TO DO, BUT APPROACHED HIM DIRECTLY AND WITHOUT HESITATION.

1. NO. 2, THE LEPER CAME TO JESUS WITH REVERENCE AND WORSHIP AND ACKNOWLEDGED HIS DEITY. FOR WHEN HE REACHED JESUS HE FELL ON HIS FACE BEFORE HIM, LIT. HE PROSTRATED HIMSELF BEFORE THE LORD. AND IN THE COMPANION PARALLEL TEXT IN MATTHEW 8:2, IT SAYS THIS LEPER BOWED DOWN BEFORE HIM, AND IN MARK 1:40, MARK SAYS, HE FELL ON HIS KNEES BEFORE HIM.

\* AND IN MATTHEW 8:1, THE PHRASE BOWED DOWN BEFORE HIM IS THE GREEK WORD PROSKUNEO, WHICH MANY TIMES IS TRANSLATED WORSHIP AND MEANS TO GIVE HOMAGE, TO COME IN RESPECT AND TO PROSTRATE ONESELF.

\*\* SO HE COMES IN WORSHIP FOR HE KNOWS WHO JESUS WAS, EITHER BY BEING AROUND **JESUS' MIRACLES IN CHAPTER 4**, HEARING IT FROM A DISTANCE OR HEARING ABOUT IT THERE.

\*\*\* AND IT APPEARS THAT HE BELIEVED THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH BY HIS WORDS AND ACTIONS.

\*\*\*\* FOR IN WORD HE CALLS HIM LORD, AND AGAIN IT APPEARS FROM THIS CONTEXT THAT THE LEPER ADDRESSED JESUS AS LORD, NOT SIMPLY IN THE SENSE OF SIR AS THIS GREEK WORD CAN BE TRANSLATED, BUT AS LORD AS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HIS DEITY.

\*\*\*\*\* HE FELT THAT HE WAS IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, FOR ONLY GOD COULD HEAL A LEPER.

2. NO. 3 THE LEPER CAME TO JESUS WITH **HUMILITY. HE CAME SAYING, "LORD, IF YOU ARE WILLING." HE ASKED TO BE HEALED ONLY IF IT WERE THE LORD'S WILL.**

\* HE DID NOT CLAIM TO BE WORTHY OR DESERVING, BUT LEFT HIMSELF IN THE **LORD'S** HANDS TO DO AS HE WOULD.

\*\* AND OBVIOUSLY HE DESPERATELY WANTED **TO BE HEALED, WHO WOULDN'T IF YOU HAD** LEPROSY.

\*\*\* **BUT HE SIMPLY ACKNOWLEDGED JESUS'** ABILITY TO HEAL HIM. AND HOW FAR THAT HUMBLE SPIRIT IS FROM THE DEMANDS OF SOME CHRISTIANS TODAY WHO MAKE CLAIMS **ON GOD'S HEALING, BLESSING, AND FAVOR AS IF** THOSE THINGS WERE THEIR INHERENT RIGHTS.

\*\*\*\* **THIS MAN SAID, "LORD IF YOU ARE WILLING."**

3. BUT NO. 4, THE LEPER CAME WITH FAITH DECLARING AT THE END OF V. 12, **"YOU CAN MAKE ME CLEAN."**

\* HE **WAS LIT. SAYING**, "LORD YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HEAL ME AND I BELIEVE THAT! HE HAD AN ABSOLUTE CONVICTION THAT JESUS WAS ABLE, COUPLED WITH HUMBLE SUBMISSION TO HIS SOVEREIGNTY IN THE EXERCISE OF HIS POWER.

\*\* THE MAN KNEW THAT JESUS WAS NOT OBLIGATED TO HEAL HIM, BUT HE ALSO KNEW THAT HE WAS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF DOING IT.

\*\*\* SO THE LEPER CAME WITH CONFIDENCE BECAUSE HE BELIEVED JESUS WAS COMPASSIONATE, WITH REVERENCE BECAUSE HE BELIEVED JESUS WAS SOVEREIGN, AND WITH FAITH BECAUSE HE BELIEVED JESUS HAD THE POWER TO HEAL HIM, WHICH LEADS US TO V. 13 AND OUR SECOND POINT TODAY, THE MIRACLE. LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE.

## II. THE MIRACLE, (READ V. 13)

A. NOW JESUS COULD HAVE HEALED THIS MAN WITH ONLY A WORD, AS HE DID ON NUMEROUS OTHER OCCASIONS.

\* BUT JESUS DID NOT HEAL THE LEPER WITH A WORD, HE MADE AN OBVIOUS POINT OF TOUCHING THIS MAN.

\*\* AND THAT SIMPLE ACT WAS AMAZING, NOT IN THE SENSE OF BEING SENSATIONAL AND SPECTACULAR - AS ARE THE SUPPOSED MIRACLES OF MANY MODERN HEALERS IN THEIR SHOWMANSHIP, BUT SIMPLY IN THE FACT THAT THE SON OF GOD LOVINGLY CONDESCENDED TO TOUCH THE OUTCAST OF OUTCASTS WHOM NO OTHER MAN WOULD EVEN COME NEAR.

**\*\*\* IN FACT IN MARK 1:41, IN MARK'S ACCOUNT OF THIS MIRACLE IT SAYS: "AND MOVED WITH COMPASSION, HE STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND AND TOUCHED HIM, AND SAID TO HIM, "I AM WILLING; BE CLEANSED."**

\*\*\*\* SO JESUS HAD COMPASSION ON HIM, WHAT LOVE AND GRACE DISPLAYED BY OUR SAVIOR.

1. BUT NOTICE AFTER JESUS TOUCHES THIS **MAN, HE SAID, "I AM WILLING". IT WAS CHRIST'S WILL WHICH WAS GOD'S WILL** TO HEAL THIS MAN AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, AND THIS **MAN'S HEALING WAS INSTANTANEOUS.**

**\* IT SAYS, "IMMEDIATELY HIS LEPROSY WAS CLEANSED."** AND THIS HEALING WAS NOT PROGRESSIVE OR IN STAGES, NOR WAS THERE A RECOVERY PROCESS, IT WAS INSTANTANEOUS AND COMPLETE!

\*\* AND CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT THE SCENE ON THIS OCCASION MUST HAVE BEEN STARTLING!

\*\*\* TO SEE A DEFORMED, SHRIVELED, SCALY, SORE COVERED LEPER STAND UP WITH PERFECT ARMS AND LEGS, WITH HIS FACE SMOOTH AND UNSCARRED, HIS HAIR RESTORED (I REALLY LIKE THAT ONE), HIS VOICE NORMAL, AND HIS EYES BRIGHT. WELL, IT MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE A SIGHT!

\*\*\*\* FOR EVEN THE MARVELS OF MODERN MEDICAL SCIENCE PALE BESIDE SUCH MIRACULOUS RESTORATION. SO WHAT JESUS DOES IS A REAL LEGITIMATE MIRACLE, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE MEANING. LOOK AT V. 14 PLEASE.

### III. THE MEANING, (READ V. 14)

A. NOW THE QUESTION COMES UP RIGHT AWAY, WHY WOULD JESUS SAY TO THIS LEPER, SEE THAT YOU TELL NO ONE, BUT GO TO THE PRIEST AND PRESENT YOUR OFFERING?

\* WELL, THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES IN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF **CHRIST'S TWO COMMANDS TO THIS LEPER** TO TELL NO ONE.

\*\* ONE POSSIBILITY IS JESUS MAY HAVE TOLD THE MAN TO SAY NOTHING FOR JESUS DID NOT WANT A FRENZY TO BREAK OUT THAT WOULD TAKE AWAY FROM HIS MESSAGE.

\*\*\* FOR THINK OF THE HOPELESSNESS OF LEPERS AND MANY SICK PEOPLE IN THAT DAY WITH NO TREATMENTS AND PAIN KILLERS AS WE HAVE TODAY, THERE COULD HAVE BEEN A RIOT AND LIMITED THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST IN GETTING AROUND AND PROCLAIMING HIS MESSAGE, IT WOULD LIMIT HIM.

\*\*\*\* AND THIS ACTUALLY HAPPENED ACCORDING **TO MARK'S ACCOUNT OF THIS MIRACLE, FOR THE LEPER WAS TOO EXCITED TO KEEP IT IN AND HE DID NOT COMPLY WITH CHRIST'S COMMAND.**



1. FOR **IT SAYS IN MARK 1:45** : **"BUT HE**, THE LEPER, WENT OUT AND BEGAN TO PROCLAIM IT FREELY AND TO SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT, TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT JESUS COULD NO LONGER PUBLICLY ENTER A CITY, BUT STAYED OUT IN UNPOPULATED AREAS; AND THEY WERE **COMING TO HIM FROM EVERYWHERE.**" AND CERTAINLY DESPERATE PEOPLE DO DESPERATE THINGS.

\* AND THAT MAY HAVE BEEN A REASON. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WAS JESUS WANTED THAT HEALED LEPER TO GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE PRIESTS WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, SO THAT WORD ABOUT HIS HEALING WOULD NOT GO AHEAD OF THIS LEPER TO THE PRIESTS, THAT WHEN THEY FOUND OUT IT WAS JESUS WHO DID IT, SO THEY WOULD NOT HAVE THE TIME TO PREPARE A REBUTTAL OF ANOTHER EXPLANATION OF THIS MIRACLE.

\*\* I MEAN THE JEWISH PRIESTS WERE NOT THAT OPEN TO ANYONE WHO TOOK AWAY FROM THEIR FOLLOWING AS JESUS DID, SO TO HAVE A PREPARED STATEMENT AHEAD OF TIME WOULD HAVE BEEN TO THEIR ADVANTAGE FOR DAMAGE CONTROL.

\*\*\* BUT IF THIS HEALED LEPER WOULD WAIT, AND SAY NOTHING UNTIL AFTER HE WENT TO THE PRIESTS, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE HAD TIME, TO USE AN EXPRESSION FROM AMERICAN POLITICS, TO PUT THEIR SPIN ON THIS MIRACLE, TO HAVE THE SPIN DOCTORS GO TO WORK.

\*\*\*\* BUT ALSO, ALTHOUGH JESUS DEVASTATED THE HYPOCRITICAL, SUPERFICIAL AND UNBIBLICAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HE DID NOT WANT THE PEOPLE TO THINK HE WAS VIOLATING **THE REQUIREMENTS OF GOD'S LAW**, FOR JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 5:17 (QUOTE IT).

2. AND IN THE LAW IN LEVITICUS 14, IF A PERSON THOUGHT THEY WERE CLEANSED FROM LEPROSY, THEY HAD TO GO TO A PRIEST TO CONFIRM IT, AND IF IT WAS CONFIRMED A SPECIAL OFFERING COMMUNICATED IN LEVITICUS 14 WAS TO BE GIVEN.

\* IN ADDITION TO THAT, IN THIS PRESENT SITUATION, WHEN THE PRIEST DECLARED THAT THIS MAN WAS CLEAN, AS HE WOULD HAVE TO BY THIS OBVIOUS HEALING,

**\*\* CHRIST'S MIRACLE WOULD BE OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED BY THE JEWISH ESTABLISHMENT, CHRIST'S CREDENTIALS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE PRIESTS, IT WOULD BE A CALLING CARD THAT HE TRULY WAS THE MESSIAH, FOR WHO COULD HEAL A LEPER OUTSIDE OF GOD, TO FACE THE FACTS WITHOUT BIAS.**

\*\*\* JESUS IN EFFECT WAS PRESENTING WHO HE WAS TO THE **PRIESTS "FOR A TESTIMONY TO THEM" AS V. 14** CLOSES WITH THAT PHRASE.

\*\*\*\* AND THE TESTIMONY TO THE PRIESTS WOULD BE UNDENIABLE, IT WOULD BE ANOTHER VERIFICATION THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH. AND MOST LIKELY THIS IS THE MEANING OF WHY JESUS TOLD THIS HEALED MAN TO TELL NO MAN, BUT TO GO TO THE PRIESTS.

3. NOW WITH THAT MEANING BEFORE US, LOOK **AT V. 15 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE** OUR 4<sup>TH</sup> AND LAST POINT TODAY, THE MULTITUDES.

#### IV. THE MULTITUDES, (READ V. 15)

A. NOW OVERJOYED AT HIS MIRACULOUS AMAZING, LIFE-CHANGING HEALING, THIS MAN **IGNORED JESUS' COMMAND AND INSTEAD** SPREAD THE NEWS AROUND.

\* AND YOU MIGHT BE THINKING, MAY IT DOES NOT SAY THAT, THE RESULTS OF THE MULTITUDES DO, BUT NOT EXPLICITLY IN THE TEXT.

\*\* WELL, AGAIN **IN MARK'S PARALLEL TEXT** OF THIS MIRACULOUS HEALING IT DOES, AS WE HARMONIZE THE GOSPELS, FOR IT SAYS IN MARK 1:45 - BUT HE WENT OUT AND BEGAN TO PROCLAIM IT FREELY AND TO SPREAD THE NEWS AROUND, TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT JESUS COULD NO LONGER PUBLICLY ENTER A CITY, BUT STAYED OUT IN UNPOPULATED AREAS; AND THEY WERE COMING TO HIM FROM EVERYWHERE.

\*\*\* NOW THIS HEALED LEPER WAS SPREADING THE NEWS AND SPEAKING FREELY.

\*\*\*\* AND THE GREEK WORD FOR PROCLAIM, IN PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS IS THE GREEK WORD KAY-ROOS-SO WHICH LIT. MEANS TO PREACH, TO PUBLISH, IN PREACHING THE GOSPEL, IN LUKE 24:47 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 9:27, II CORINTHIANS 4:5, AND II TIMOTHY 4:2.

1. AND NO DOUBT, THIS MIRACULOUSLY **HEALED LEPER'S LIFE IS CHANGED AND HE CAN'T HOLD IT IN, AND I'M NOT JUSTIFYING HIM OR RATIONALIZING HIS DISOBEDIENCE TO JESUS. HE JUST WANTS TO PROCLAIM IT FREELY.**

\* WELL, THE RESULT WAS, THE NEWS ABOUT JESUS WAS SPREADING EVEN FURTHER AND LARGE CROWDS, GREAT CROWDS, HUGE CROWDS WERE COMING TO HEAR HIM AND BE HEALED.

\*\* AND TO THE EXTENT, THAT JESUS COULD NO LONGER GO INTO A POPULATED AREA LIKE A CITY, BUT STAY OUT IN THE UNPOPULATED AREAS, BECAUSE HE WAS BEING MOBBED IN CITIES, AS PEOPLE WERE COMING TO HIM FROM EVERYWHERE.

\*\*\* SO JESUS HAD TO PULL BACK FOR A WHILE, TO LET THE EXCITEMENT ABOUT HEALING A LEPER DIE DOWN, BUT STILL MULTITUDES WERE COMING.

\*\*\*\* REMEMBER PEOPLE WERE HOPELESS AND HELPLESS AND BEING CURED FROM LEPROSY WAS LIKE BEING RAISED FROM THE DEAD. HE WOULD BE MOBBED.

2. SO HE GOES OUT INTO UNPOPULATED AREAS, AND STILL MULTITUDES FOUND HIM, BUT ANOTHER ONE OF THE REASONS HE GOES OUT INTO AN UNPOPULATED AREA WAS TO GET AWAY AND ALONE WITH HIS FATHER, TO PRAY. LOOK AT V. 16 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 16. NOW LUKE HAS MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR IN HIS GOSPEL ALREADY UP TO THIS POINT, THAT PRAYER FOR JESUS WAS AN INTEGRAL AND ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY.

\* AND THIS EMPHASIS AND PRIORITY WILL BE REPEATED AGAIN IN OUR NEXT CHAPTER IN LUKE 6:12, WHERE LUKE SAID: (QUOTE IT).

\*\* AND FOR JESUS THIS WAS NOT AN OCCASIONAL PRACTICE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CITY TO THE WILDERNESS, BUT SOMETHING HE DID OFTEN, TO SLIP AWAY TO PRAY.

\*\*\* JESUS WOULD RETREAT TO PRAY, TO BE REFRESHED, TO REFLECT, TO BE REFRESHED, TO RECHARGE AND PREPARE FOR SPIRITUAL BATTLES AND SEEK HIS **FATHER'S DIRECTION** AND WILL.

\*\*\*\* AND I HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THIS IN OUR STUDY OF LUKE, IF JESUS DID THAT, THE SON OF GOD, HOW MUCH MORE DO WE?

**1. AND IT'S** INTERESTING THE GEEK VERB TRANSLATED WITHDRAW, WITHDREW AND WOULD OFTEN SLIP AWAY DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE IS IN THE IMPERFECT TENSE IN THE GREEK WHICH GENERALLY COMMUNICATES CONTINUAL OR REPEATED ACTION.



\* HOW MUCH DO WE CONTINUE IN AND REPEATEDLY PRAY AND WITHDRAW TO PRAY? WELL, I THESSALONIANS 5:17 SAYS: (QUOTE IT)

\*\* BELOVED WE ARE TO BE IN THE ATTITUDE OF PRAYER, IT SHOULD BE AS NATURAL AS BREATHING, TO COMMUNE WITH OUR FATHER, TO SEEK DIRECTION, FOR PROTECTION, FOR OUR FAMILY, OUR CHURCH, PEOPLE AROUND US, FOR **PEOPLE'S SOUL'S AND GROWTH, FOR STRENGTH** AND ON AND ON.

\*\*\* WE MUST GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP TO OUR FATHER IN THE PRIORITY AND PREEMINENCE OF PRAYER.

NOW AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY (1) I CONCLUDE WITH THREE APPLICATIONS TODAY. NO. 1 THE IRONY OF THIS TRUE STORY IS, THIS LEPER DID NOT OBEY CHRIST; HE TOLD ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE WHAT THE LORD HAD DONE, **HE COULDN'T KEEP QUIET, HE WAS** DISOBEDIENT.

\* BUT CHRIST TELLS US AS HIS DISCIPLES TO TELL EVERYBODY, AND WE KEEP QUIET! AND WE ARE DISOBEDIENT. WE HAVE THE TREASURE OF THE GOSPEL, AND A COMMAND TO BE WITNESSES, AND WE HAVE THE CURE TO SPIRITUAL LEPROSY, SIN, AND WE KEEP OUR MOUTHS CLOSED.

\*\* LET US BE ABOUT OUR LORD'S **BUSINESS IN** FAITHFULLY PROCLAIMING THE ANECDOTE TO SIN, THE GOSPEL, AND LET US DO IT OUT OF OBEDIENCE AND COMPASSION, FOR HEALING OF THE SOUL AND FOR THE GLORY OF GOD, MARK 16:15, PSALM 96:3 (QUOTE THEM).

(2) NO. 2 LEPROSY IS A GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION OF SIN. FOR LIKE LEPROSY, SIN INFECTS THE WHOLE PERSON, AND IT IS UGLY, LOATHSOME, CORRUPTING, CONTAMINATING, ALIENATING, AND INCURABLE BY MAN.

\* LEPERS IN ANCIENT ISRAEL WERE VIVID OBJECT LESSONS OF SIN. AND JUST AS LEPROSY DESTROYS PHYSICAL HEALTH AND MAKES A PERSON AN OUTCAST WITH OTHER PEOPLE, SO SIN DESTROYS SPIRITUAL HEALTH AND MAKES A PERSON AN OUTCAST WITH GOD.

\*\* BUT JUST AS CHRIST CURED LEPROSY, HE **ALSO CURES SIN, THAT'S WHY HE CAME**, LUKE 5:32 (QUOTE IT).

\*\*\* JESUS CAME AS THE SAVIOR TO CURE PEOPLE FROM THE SIN DISEASE, AND JUST AS CLEANSING FROM LEPROSY RESTORED MEN TO **HUMAN FELLOWSHIP, CHRIST'S CLEANSING FROM SIN RESTORES THEM TO GOD'S FELLOWSHIP**, THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED BY THE SIN DISEASE.

\*\*\*\* REALIZING THAT, COMING TO CHRIST IS NOT GETTING ON A POPULAR BANDWAGON OF RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTALITY.

**(3) IT IS FACING AND CONFESSING ONE'S SIN**  
AND BRINGING IT TO THE LORD FOR CLEANSING.  
TRUE CONVERSION TAKES PLACE WHEN LIKE  
THE LEPER, DESPERATE PEOPLE COME TO  
CHRIST HUMBLY CONFESSING THEIR NEED AND  
REVERENTLY SEEKING HIS RESTORATION.

\* AND THE TRULY REPENTANT PERSON, LIKE  
THIS LEPER IN LUKE 5, COMES WITH NO PRIDE,  
NO SELF WILL, NO RIGHTS, AND NO CLAIMS TO  
WORTHINESS.

\*\* HE SEES HIMSELF AS A REPULSIVE SINNER  
WHO HAS ABSOLUTELY NO CLAIM TO  
SALVATION APART FROM THE ABUNDANT  
GRACE OF GOD.

\*\*\* HE COMES BELIEVING THAT GOD CAN AND  
WILL SAVE HIM ONLY AS HE TURNS FROM SIN  
TO TRUSTING FAITH IN CHRIST.

\*\*\*\* IF YOU SEE THAT TODAY, AND SEE YOUR NEED TO BE HEALED FROM THE SIN DISEASE, COME TO THE SAVIOR TODAY NOW AND BE CLEANSED FROM THE LEPROSY OF YOUR SIN.

(4) AND NO. 3 AND LAST OF ALL, THE PHRASE IN MARK 1:41 THAT **JESUS "MOVED WITH COMPASSION, STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND AND TOUCHED HIM,"** JUMPS OUT TO ME.

\* JESUS TOUCHED A PERSON WHO WAS UNTOUCHABLE IN JEWISH SOCIETY, BECAUSE OF HIS COMPASSION AND LOVE.

\*\* AND I WONDER ARE THERE UNTOUCHABLES IN OUR LIVES? PEOPLE THAT WE PULL AWAY FROM WHERE THE LORD BRINGS THEM ACROSS OUR PATH?

\*\*\* DO WE IN PRIDE LOOK DOWN ON CERTAIN PEOPLE WITH DISEASE BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN, THEIR HEALTH, THEIR SOCIAL STATUS AND THINK THEY ARE BENEATH US, OR ARE NOT WORTH OF FORGIVENESS.

\*\*\*\* WELL, THE REALITY OF THE MATTER IS NONE OF US ARE WORTHY OF FORGIVENESS! AND THE ONLY THING THAT SEPARATES US FROM QUOTE DOWN AND OUTERS IS GRACE. **SOVEREIGN SAVING GRACE. FOR THAT'S WHERE** I WOULD BE WITHOUT THE GRACE OF GOD.

(5) SO MAY WE LOVINGLY, PASSIONATELY AND COMPASSIONATELY REACH OUT AND TOUCH **SPIRITUAL LEPERS WITH THE GOSPEL. (LET'S PRAY)**