

## Life-Changing Encounter

*And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.*

*Luke 5:12*

Jeremiah 20:9 tells us that the *heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?* Man should take heed to this, especially when it comes to self-evaluation. The God who made us and sees us for who we are is the one who has the true and accurate assessment of each of us. Beginning to accurately see ourselves is a necessary part in coming to Christ. Knowing that we are sinners and totally helpless to change ourselves is what helps us to fall at the feet of the Savior.

Leprosy is a loathsome and debilitating disease that was prevalent when the Lord Jesus walked in this world. In Leviticus several chapters are dedicated to explaining how to deal with it. Today's text is from the account of our Lord Jesus interacting with an unnamed leper who comes to him for healing. This man comes to Christ after reaching a couple realizations. Most obviously he was very aware of his condition of leprosy and understood that finding a remedy was beyond his own resources. This account records that this man was full of leprosy which seems to indicate that it afflicted his whole body. The leprous man's condition forced him to realistically look at himself which motivated him to seek healing. The afflicted man would be an outcast from society, and his riddled body would present a hideous appearance. In his pitiful condition he cast himself at Jesus' feet. Though desperate, the leper understood the power and sovereignty of our Lord when saying "Lord if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean". He believed the Lord had the power to heal; but that healing would have to come from God's mercy and love. The Gospel of Mark's account of this event states that Jesus was moved with compassion as He touched the leper. This encounter caused many others to come to hear and be healed of their infirmities by Jesus.

Our journey of true faith in Christ, first begins with recognizing our own spiritual depravity. There needs to be a brokenness because of our condition and a belief that the Lord Jesus Christ is able to touch and heal us from our sin. Just as the leper was immediately healed at the words and touch of Jesus, we also are saved the moment we in true belief fall at the Lord's feet. Pray that the life-changing encounter we had with Jesus can cause others to have their own encounter with Him. J. Ekis