

The Healer of Hurts

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Mark 1:40-2:12.

B. Jesus displays a perceptive understanding of the nature of humanity. (John 2)

II. The healing of the leper.

A. The appeal of the leper to the will of Jesus and Jesus' compassionate response are unique to this parable.

B. Sometimes God wills us to be sick given the circumstances we are in and the fallen nature of humanity.

1. For instance, God would not remove Paul's thorn in the flesh.

2. Leprosy is a picture of the sin of man—in Jesus, there was one who could clean the sin of man.

3. Jesus' cleansing of the man was a fulfillment of a sign of the Messiah.

III. The healing of the paralytic.

A. Jesus was there preaching the Word—He was not there for a healing service.

B. However, God is always open to the needs of people. (Matthew 11)

C. Quality of faith.

1. These men dared to do the difficult.

2. They dared to do the unorthodox.

3. They dared to do the costly.

D. The man was paralyzed because of sin, so Jesus goes to the heart of the matter and forgives his sin.

E. Jesus used the gift of discernment to tell people what they were thinking.

1. The people were amazed at the healing but also at Jesus' understanding of humanity.

2. They were amazed that someone could understand that a sickness was the result of a sin.

Application questions:

1. What are some reasons that sicknesses might occur?

2. What role does Jesus fulfill in healing the leper?

3. Suggesting that sin is the source of a sickness can be taboo in our culture. Would you be willing to suggest to someone that he or she might need to seek forgiveness for something if he or she is sick?
