

WEEK 2

THE WONDER OF HEALING

JESUS HEALS A LEPER

"I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" -Mark 1:41



Day 1: Monday

Scripture: *Mark 1:40-45*

THE WILLING CHRIST

Last week, we studied Jesus' first miracle in Mark, the healing of a man with an unclean spirit. This week, we will see that Jesus once again encountered what would have been considered unclean when a leper approached him. Much like last week's encounter with the unclean spirit, Jesus was willing to enter into this man's brokenness to cleanse him of this impurity.

In Jesus' time, being impure or unclean was equated to some sort of brokenness; anything that disrupted wholeness, life, and communion with God and others. This man, as a leper, was considered an outcast. His disease rendered him physically unclean, spiritually excluded, and socially isolated. He lived at the margins, cut off from everything and everyone with no physical touch, worship, or community.

When the leper comes to Jesus in Mark 1, he does not question Jesus' power. He questions His willingness to make him clean: *"If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,"* And in that moment, we see something extraordinary. Jesus does not step back from this brokenness. He steps toward it. Moved with compassion, Jesus reaches out and touches the man, an act that should have made him unclean, but instead He cleanses him of this impurity.

Jesus' willingness reveals the heart of God. He is not reluctant to heal, hesitant to restore, or fearful of our uncleanness. Jesus does not flee from suffering; he enters into it and seeks to redeem it. With a touch and the simple words, *"I am willing"*, Jesus declares that no one is too unclean to be made whole. This same promise is true for us today.

Reflection

Pause and take time to acknowledge an area of your life that you are afraid to invite Jesus into. A sin you've grown comfortable with. The problem you cannot resolve. The weaknesses you wish were gone by now. Rather than trying to explain it away, offer it to Him as it is. Pray simply that He would enter in, not as a distant God, but as the One who draws near, touches what is unclean, and makes all things new.

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: Mark 1:40-45, Isaiah 53:3-5

HUMBLE TRUST

Many burdened ones come to Christ from the deep places of self-abasement; they know their sinfulness and feel it; their self-consciousness has almost driven them to despair. They are down very low, and every step they take to Christ is a step upward. They have a little hope as they look to him, and then a little more, until it comes to a humble trust. Then from a feeble, trembling trust it rises to a simple faith, and so they advance until when they stand near to Jesus they even reach to the full assurance of faith. Thus from soul distress and self-despair they come to the Lord Jesus, and he receives them graciously.

- Charles Spurgeon

Mark draws attention to Jesus' emotional response in verse 41; some translations describe Him as "moved with compassion," while others use the word "angry or indignant." Either way, Jesus is deeply stirred, whether by mercy toward the man living in isolation or by righteous anger toward those who have isolated him. Jesus is not detached from suffering; He is moved toward action to restore what has been broken.

The leper is forced outside the community and burdened not only by disease but by shame. Isaiah's Suffering Servant is described in similar terms, acquainted with grief and regarded as despised. The leper approaches Jesus in humility and desperation, unsure of His willingness to cleanse him, but trusting His power. He comes with a humble trust. He kneels, acknowledging both his unworthiness and Jesus' authority. His faith is not bold or demanding; it is trembling and dependent, reaching out in hope.

Jesus does more than heal; He takes the place of the rejected one. The leper is restored to the community, while Jesus suffers further isolation, staying "outside in lonely places." As Isaiah foretold, "it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down." (Isa. 53:4). This miracle is a preview of the cross, where He will fully take on human suffering to make us whole and give us His miraculous gift of grace.

Reflection

Center your heart today on these words, "But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed." What in your life needs to be restored and brought before the miracle worker? Lay it before him, trusting that He can restore and heal those broken places.

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: *Mark 1:40-45, Leviticus 13:45-46; 14:1-8*

RESTORED TO COMMUNITY

Leprosy did more than damage the physical body; it stripped people of their sense of belonging. According to Leviticus, those with the disease lived outside the camp, cut off from worship, family, and the shared life of God's people in community. Isolation was not just painful; it was damaging to their spiritual formation, making them feel like outsiders. When Jesus heals the man with leprosy in Mark 1, He does not allow the story to end with physical restoration alone. He instructs the man to show himself to the priest and complete what the Law requires. This step matters. It opens the way back into the community and back into worship. The priest does not make the man clean; he declares what God has already done.

Why would Jesus insist on this? From the beginning, life with God has been lived in community. Worship was intended to be communal, and restoration meant being brought back into the body of Christ, not remaining on the margins as an outsider. As N.T. Wright reminds us, restoration requires discernment. Obedience to the Law was never meant to block joy; it was meant to lead to fullness of life. Jesus is not interested in just performing a miracle; He is committed to seeing the leper fully reconnected to God and restored to a community of faith, a place where he can be seen, known, and welcomed. We all need a place where we can be known and loved.

The man disobeys, and instead of going quietly, he tells everyone. The result is striking: Jesus can no longer enter towns freely and ends up on the outside, while the once-isolated man returns to the community. They traded places. Jesus makes room for this man's messy, not-quite-right response. He doesn't withdraw the healing or scold the man. He absorbs the cost himself. This is just another signpost of what is to come on the cross: Jesus being willing to take our place, our shame, our guilt, and bear the weight of it so we can be restored.

Reflection

Where have you felt isolated, spiritually, socially, or emotionally? Where might Jesus be inviting you to take a step back toward prayerful involvement in the community of faith today? Our steps into community are often tentative and imperfect, but Jesus honors movement toward wholeness and growth. He meets us as we are and gently leads us forward towards healing.

Consider one small, faithful step toward connection within your church family here at Grace. Joining a group, attending an event, becoming a regular contributor, or serving on a team are all simple acts that can become sacred pathways toward healing, belonging, and restoration.

Day 4: Thursday

Scripture: *Mark 1:43-45, Mark 7:36-37, Psalm 72*

WONDER THAT OVERFLOWS

There are moments when Jesus meets us so clearly, so personally, that silence feels impossible. That is what happens to the leper in Mark 1. A man who has lived on the margins, isolated, unseen, untouchable, is suddenly restored. Jesus heals him and then gives him a surprising command: Don't tell anyone. Instead, show yourself to the priest, be obedient to the law. The leper is healed, and this good news spills out of him with wonder. His whole life has been transformed, and he wants everyone to know.

When Jesus meets us in places of deep need, when shame loosens its grip, when hope breaks through after a long season, something in us wants to speak. When Jesus does wonder-filled things for us, it should overflow into our lives. Mark 7 echoes this same idea. Once again, Jesus performs a miracle and orders silence. The people proclaim His goodness all the more. *"They were overwhelmed with amazement"* (7:37). Mark is doing more here than recording enthusiastic testimonies. He is carefully shaping how we come to understand who Jesus truly is. Biblical scholars say this pattern of secrecy in Mark is intentional, often called the "Messianic Secret". Jesus' identity is slowly revealed over time. It is not something that can be grasped all at once. It unfolds gradually, deliberately, and often through times of suffering. Jesus is more than just a miracle worker, and he is even more than the demons' declaration that he is *"the Holy One of God."* Mark is guiding us toward a deeper revelation, one that doesn't fully come into focus until the cross.

It is also interesting to note that Jesus insists on obedience in Mark 1:44. Craig Keener, in his book *Miracles*, reminds us that Jesus does not dismiss sacrifice or Torah law, but reads the law through the heart of the God who gave it. God didn't say, *"Obey me so that I will rescue you."* He said, *"I have rescued you; now walk with me in obedience."*

Psalm 72 lifts our eyes to see that God brings justice, peace, restoration, and flourishing for the world through the wonderful things He does for us. The wonder begins in a personal encounter, and grows into a beautiful testimony that we can't help but share. Reflecting on this should produce a wonder that overflows from us in obedience, testimony, and praise.

Reflection

Spend time in prayer today, asking God to remind you of the ways He has met you personally and ask Him for ways to share that testimony with those around you.

Day 5: Friday

Scripture: *Mark 1:40-45, Hebrews 4:14-16*

COME BOLDLY

All week, we have watched Jesus move toward what others avoid. A man marked as unclean kneels in desperation, and instead of retreating, Jesus draws near. He touches. He speaks. He restores. This is not a distant Christ, but a compassionate Savior who is powerful enough to heal all the brokenness.

Hebrews reminds us that this same Jesus, who touched the leper and entered into human suffering, is right now our great High Priest interceding with the Father on our behalf. Because He intimately understands human weakness, we can now approach Him boldly, not cautiously, with honest hearts. The kingdom revealed in this miracle is one in which access to him is intimate and healing is available. He is kind, merciful, and good.

Lent invites us to lay down our defenses and come as we are to trust that our brokenness does not repel the Holy One, but instead comes close and meets us there. The nearness of Jesus calls for a humble, grateful response, receiving what we did not earn and allowing His compassion to shape our own.

Reflection

Pray honestly today, come boldly, without editing yourself. He is closer than you think, and He wants to hear from you.

Day 6: Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, reread *Mark 1:40-45*. This week, we looked at the Wonder of Healing through the Miracle of the Leper. Today let's sit in the **wonder that Jesus is not repelled by our brokenness**. Open your heart to the wonderful things He shows us each day about how he can heal our broken places, and open yourself to the awe and wonder of Jesus' healing power each day.

Reflect on how these words shape our lives. Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus and how does this change the way I follow Him?
 - What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
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Day 7: Sunday

Rest Day

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

