

Recap of 3/5/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 1:40-45)

1. *Mark 1:40-45 is one of the most poignant pictures of Jesus in the New Testament. In it we see Jesus' compassion for a man suffering from leprosy. The parallel passages are Luke 5:12-16 and Matthew 8:1-4. The passage illustrates Jesus' care for the helpless and hopeless, and the ignored and discarded.*
 - *"Jesus' entire life on earth shows that He is God. And that God cares." (Richards)*
2. *the plight of the leper is seen in that, the leper had to:*
 - *wear torn clothes*
 - *let his hair be unkempt/disheveled*
 - *cover the lower part of his face*
 - *cry out "unclean, unclean" when others came near*
 - *"this man hadn't been touched in many years. Nor had he been able to touch anyone. I imagine his family brought out the food and drink for him, left it, and after they had retired, he would come up and get it. He probably could wave to them, but he could never come to them again, never hold them in his arms, never touch them." (Mc Gee)*
3. *In this passage we see that:*
 - *Jesus offers compassion to those who are without hope and rejected by others.*
 - *Jesus is approachable*
 - *Jesus is powerful enough to meet the deepest needs.*
 - *Leprosy is an illustration of sin, in that sin corrupts completely, wreaks physical, mental and social anguish; makes us unclean and separates us from God.*