

25 May 2014: Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew

Topic: **Life of Christ: Christ can make us Clean!**

Scripture Text: Mark 1:40-45

1. A leper living in the biblical period is like a living dead person as there is no cure for the disease and his nerve system is dead. As the disease is contagious, he has to be separated from family and friends and live within the leper colony. Only God can cure leprosy. In the OT, having leprosy is a punishment from God for the sin of the person.
2. In verse 40, we have the leper begging and kneeling before Christ to plead for healing if Christ will. He began in faith as he knew Jesus Christ is God and hence pleaded to be healed by Him. The journey of being cleansed spiritually begins in faith.
3. The leper knew his condition and his desperate need to be cleansed. It is so with all of us who are sinners and in fact, our sins are worse than leprosy. Our sins destroy our souls. The leper knew he cannot do anything to save himself. It must be so for every sinner today to know we cannot do anything to save ourselves. We must come to Christ totally being poor in spirit.
4. In verses 41-42, we see the compassion of Jesus Christ to touch the leper and heal him immediately of his leprosy. No one will ever touch a leper lest the disease is spread to him. Here we can see the love of Jesus to save and cleanse us from all our sins. This cleansing experience in our hearts must be personally explained and be true in every Christian's life.
5. Finally after the leper is cleansed in v.43-45, Jesus sent him to the priests so that he can testify to them that Jesus Christ is God who has the power to cure him. The priests knew this truth and the leper must bear this testimony for Christ. This is what a believer must do after we are saved to testify for Christ to the unbelieving world.