

While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him. Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 5:12 - 16

# The case of the man with leprosy

(Jesus breaks down a gigantic barrier)

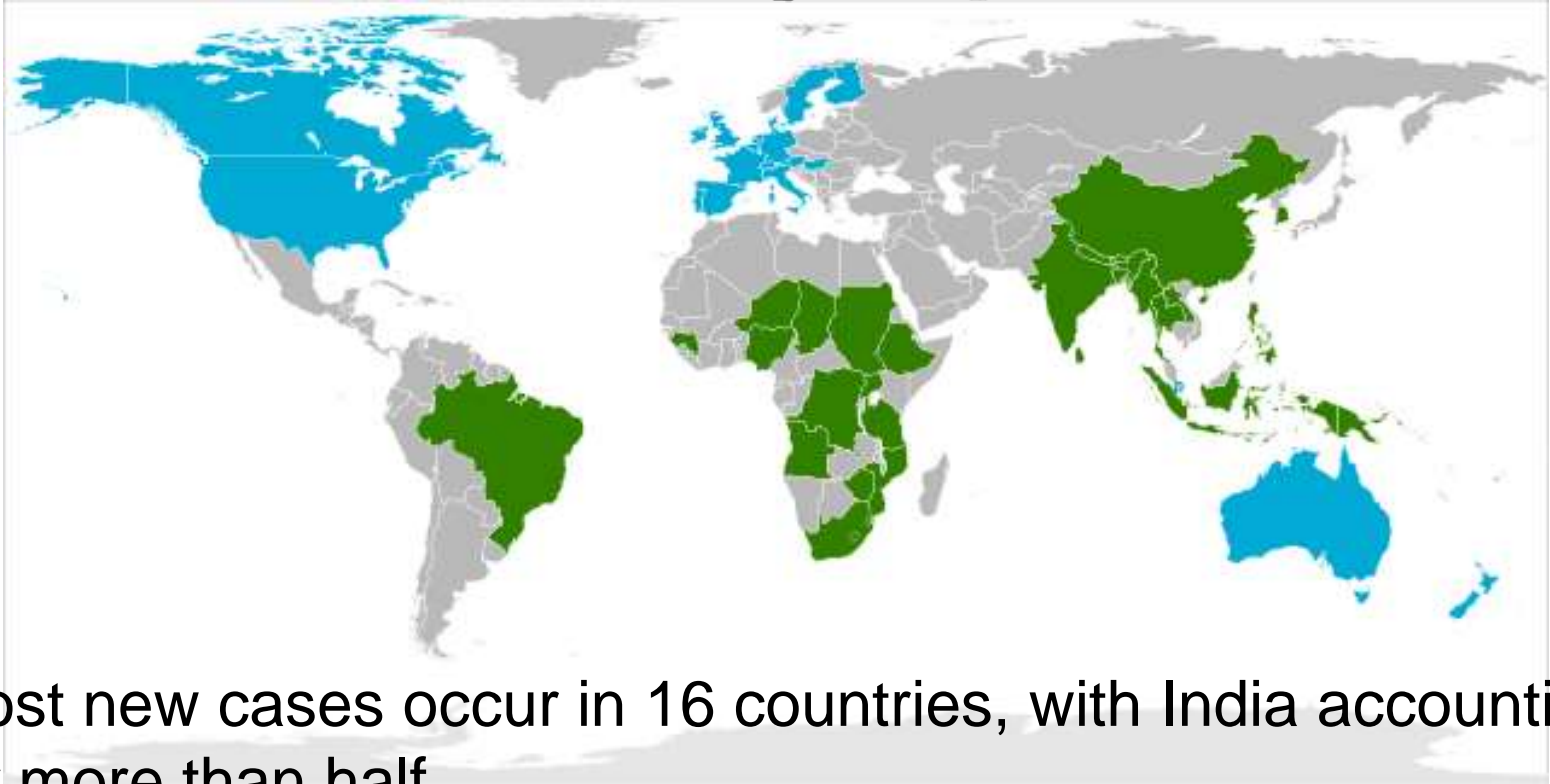
“Leprosy” had a religious and social impact for national health

"Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' As long as they have the disease they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.

Leviticus 13:45 - 46



# Nations where leprosy is endemic



Most new cases occur in 16 countries, with India accounting for more than half.

Many leper colonies have now closed since leprosy is not very contagious, and is treatable with modern drugs.

Leprosy is spread between people. This is believed to occur through a cough or contact with fluid from the nose of an infected person

# Leprosy



Initially, infections are without symptoms and typically remain this way for 5 to 20 years. It affects the nerves, respiratory tract, skin, and eyes. This may result in an inability to feel pain and so damage to parts of extremities due to repeated injuries.

a man came along who was covered with leprosy.



A case as bad as it gets – ‘covered’ = past infectious stage  
Social separation, Hopeless isolation A death sentence

**What made him come? How did he get near?**

When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

## What is he saying to Jesus?

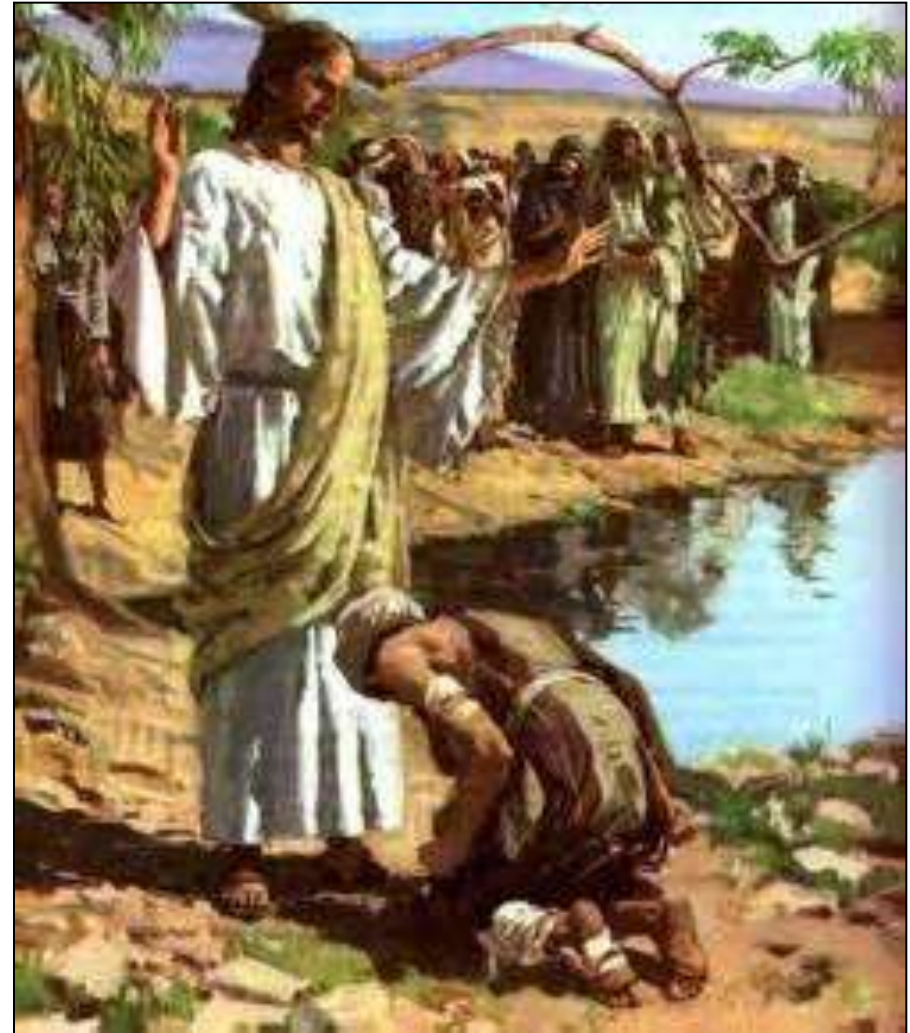
**Faith?** (you can make me clean)

**Doubt?** (If you are willing)

Jesus is able, but is he willing?

Did he think God's word was against him?

Or is it submission – your will be done, but please help ?



Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.

## Did Jesus break the law?

Ceremonial contamination by contact (Leviticus 5:3)

“...stretching out his hand he touched him saying .....

Words and actions together

The touch demonstrated  
he was clean!



**Jesus compassion – welcome to my world!**

"I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"  
And immediately the leprosy left him.

## Jesus is able – and willing

He didn't 'heal' him he cleansed him.

Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick,  
raise the dead, **cleanse those  
who have leprosy**, drive out  
demons.

- 1, Physical restoration
- 2, Social restoration
- 3, Spiritual restoration





Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone,



**Why does Jesus want to keep it quiet?**

**Doesn't Jesus want to help people?**

No show or spectacle? Give the wrong idea of his 1<sup>st</sup> mission?

Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

1, Following the Bible's teaching,

"These are the regulations for any diseased person at the time of their ceremonial cleansing, when they are brought to the priest:

..... Leviticus 14:2

2, Get official 'proof' of healing in order to re-enter society.

3, Testimony to 'opposition'?



Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.



The “word” spread – he is able AND willing

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.



**You can't give out unless you receive in worship**

# **Leprosy compared with Sin**

This is NOT to say that leprosy sufferers are any worse sinners than anybody else.

It is imperceptible to start with

It contaminates every part

It infects others

It makes the sufferer  
insensitive to danger

It isolates the individual from  
family and friends

It slowly destroys life



**Only  
the Lord Jesus  
can cleanse  
a man or woman  
from sin.**

