

All Age Sermon on Mark 1:35-45 for CCH 28/10/18

TALK PART 1

V40. "If you are willing you can make me clean".

What a wonderful story. Let's act it out again- need *Leper* and *Jesus*?

LEPER- Q what like being leper? [loo rolls and stickers]

- Health life? Couldn't feel...injury, burns, infection.
- Social life? Couldn't touch. No friends. Bell! Stay away.
- Work life
- Religious life? He couldn't go to Temple. Unclean. (phys/spir)
- Future? Get worse and die.

Q: how are we similar to this guy?

Ppl don't like it when talk about sin. Most obvious truth in the bible to demonstrate. Spreads (in families in our lives, one lie leads to another).

Spoils (friendships, families, societies) Separates. Unclean (1:23).

JESUS- [Crown & robes]

Q What have kids and adults been learning about Jesus so far this term?

Let's act out story...

V40.

V41. ▶ Now word could be ***filled with compassion*** (footnote)- true! or could be ***indignant***= angry.

J could be angry with Satan for how sin has brought suffering into world and turned one of God's creature's into a monster.

▶ Reached out and touched! Amazing. Princess Diana.

V42. ▶ Immediately! One of Mark's favourite words. 37 times.

Amazing and tells us more about Jesus' power and authority.

Tells us how Jesus has the power to heal us from THE disease of sin.

Think of your own life.... Love God? Love sisters?

Before we go on, I'd like to zoom in on v40...

But to get the most out of this, we need to play the **CAN/WANT game**.

CAN or WILL or both?

Example play the trombone? CAN WILLING

1. Eat Chocolate? kid CAN WILLING
2. Fly to the moon? kid CAN WILLING
3. Go for a run? Adult? CAN WILLING
4. Tidy your room? teenager CAN WILLING
5. Heal someone of sickness? CAN WILLING

Wow, here's the question the guy is asking.

Jesus I know that you CAN heal me. (That's amazing- not in doubt).

But the big question is whether you WILL.

It's a very thoughtful question. Cos seen last week that Jesus isn't just about healing. He's a King who has come for our deepest need- the priority of sin. We will see this again next week with the Paralysed man.

But wonderfully Jesus IS willing.

Now I find this incredibly moving.

- Some people here still figuring out whether Jesus is real. So you are not sure if he CAN heal the deepest root of our sin.
- But others here (perhaps put myself) know that Jesus CAN deal with our sin sickness, but just not sure if he would WANT to bother with us?
 - perhaps felt ignored in life
 - perhaps feel too bad for Jesus
 - perhaps mucked it all up too much.

Well do you see the compassion and the WILLINGNESS of Jesus?

Not promising healing in this life or all consequences of our sin sorted out now, but he is promising forgiveness in this life, and complete in the next.

Come humbly to him. Turn to him like this guy did. If you are willing you can make me clean. "I am willing. Be clean!". I first did that aged 11. Have you?

If so, can celebrate with story of next song: new song in my heart.

When I was lost you came and rescued me.

TALK PART 2

(kids colouring sheet)

Seen J willingness to heal our uncleanness.

Question for the adults.

Why the secret?

Let me reread v43-44 V44 Don't tell this to anyone!

Becca- you had some cancer treatment. What did the doctors say afterwards? All clear.

How would you have found it if doc had said don't tell anyone?

In fact the word in v43 strong warning could be "sternly charged/scolded/(even=) rebuked harshly" seems really keen to make sure he doesn't speak about this healing.

So why? Very strange.

Q Any ideas why?

See it quite a few times in Mark.

- 1v25 Evil Spirits- be quiet
- 1v34 Evil Spirits not speak because they knew.
- 8v30 Peter: he warned not to tell.

Some say...

1. This was added in later by Mark to tone down the fact he was the Messiah (not right!) or
2. even more wildly because he wanted to associate Jesus with some Greek Hero Odysseus¹ who also kept his identity secret.

Not very helpful.

I think the passage that gives us the most clues is in chapter 8 when Peter gets Jesus half wrong. He sees that Jesus is the KING, the Messiah, but not WHAT KIND of Messiah he is – a suffering sin saviour.

▲ Electrician illustration. Go up the tower to fix phone lines.

No... Half knowledge is dangerous.

Perhaps Jesus didn't want the leper to tell everyone about the healing in case they all flock to Jesus as a healing Messiah ahead of being a sin saving Messiah who can deal with the uncleanness in our life caused by sin.

It's one thing to know that Jesus is the Messiah but it's dangerous if it leads us only to want him for a healing figure...

And actually we see that in the story.

First....

V44 Jesus wanted the leper to go and show himself to the priests. You see in the Old Testament there were a series of laws that told you what to do if you. It's interesting that they are there, because the law couldn't clean you up from leprosy, though 2 people in the OT did get healed of leprosy. Miriam and Naaman.

But embedded in Lev 14 is a

▲ Some of you are computer programmers. It's like putting a piece of code in your car parking software that means that in the future when flying cars are invented there will be parking places for them. Even though flying cars haven't been invented yet.

¹ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messianic_Secret

Well the OT had a way of saying what to do when someone got healed of leprosy- go and offer some sacrifices to make sure you are cleaned up. Sacrifices of atonement as they were known.

And Jesus came and used that code, doing had hardly ever been done before- healing a leper of their uncleanness. So Jesus is bringing a new era and a new power and a new kingdom, the likes of which no-one has seen before.

BUT THEN...

V45a

The man with leprosy didn't go out and do what he was told, despite the strong warnings, and the word spread like wildfire that there was a healer around.

V45b

Sure enough people flocked for healing, and Jesus was surrounded by people

So he has to go out to lonely places- perhaps the wilderness. But even there people flock for healing.

This helps explain why this story is here. We might have thought from last week's sermon on Jesus' priorities that we wouldn't see Jesus heal much again, because of his priority to preach.

But Jesus is full of compassion and when there's someone in front of him in great need, he is willing to help them.

However, he wants it to be a secret, so that he isn't mobbed by people as a healer, as if that's all that he does.

Let me illustrate with a slightly childish story....

▲ Imagine a criminal does 2 crimes: he puts a small **bomb** in every car sold at the car dealerships in Huntingdon with 2 weeks to explosion. As part of the process when the bomb is put in, the **car radios** have also been messed up in the process.

Suppose you have the ability to be able to defuse that bomb and so you are desperate to help people get their bombs defused. The big problem, the root problem.

But you are also great at fixing car radios too, the surface problem.

Well you don't want everyone to tell everyone you can fix all the car radios in Huntingdon because that will get in the way of the big mission to remove the bombs.

Jesus can fix the surface problem of sickness, but the big deeper problem is one of sin.

So he fixes the car radio, but says don't tell everyone.

But the guy doesn't listen, and now v45b he can't go into a town without people coming to them with their car radios (sickness), when he wants to fix their bigger problem- (of sin).

Let's bring all this together...

(We'll see more on this next week)

We've seen from this healing that Jesus is compassionate and concerned to help. Praise God. He is the King. The Messiah.

But what he really wants to do is to fix people's deeper problem of which leprosy is a picture. That's the bomb in our hearts.

Sin has left us cut off from God.

It spoils, it spreads, it separates.

- I realised the other day that I am a habitual stealer.
- No I don't do it in shops, though I could.
- I steal God's glory. I want myself to look good rather than God.
- And I guess you do too.
- And left to myself this will ultimately separate me from God.

I am unclean. So isn't it wonderful that Jesus is a King who can deal with my deepest problem. **Let's pray.**