

Sermon Discussion Guide
09.01.24 Message | Scott Bates | Mark 1:40-45

Key Scripture (ESV):

And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

- Mark 1:40-45 (ESV)

Message Highlights:

- When we see ourselves and others the way Jesus does, we treat and interact with people differently.
 - As Christians, we need to see the world differently, and Jesus has the power to change how we see others.
 - The concept of belonging shapes our identity, influencing our sense of community and mission.
 - Jesus' ministry transcends cultural and ethnic boundaries, redefining what it means to be part of God's family.
 - Nations and tribes are essential in God's redemptive plan, reflecting his creativity and purpose for diversity.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

- When was a time you experienced something unexpected from someone you didn't know well? How did that encounter change your perception of them or your situation?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How does Jesus see you? How does seeing yourself and others the way Jesus does change the way you interact with people on a daily basis?
- What do you think it means that we are called as Christians to see the world differently? How do you suppose your view of the world is different since giving your life to Jesus, or if you haven't given your life to Jesus, how might your view be different if you made that decision?
- Scott mentioned that our sense of belonging shapes both who we are and what we do. How does this understanding affect your involvement in the community?
- Scott emphasized the importance of seeing ourselves as part of God's family. How does this perspective influence the way we engage with those who are different from us?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?):

- What does Jesus' willingness to touch the leper despite the cultural and religious taboos reveal about his view of purity and inclusion? (Mark 1:41)
- How does the leper's faith in approaching Jesus reflect our understanding of seeking healing or help in desperate situations? (Mark 1:40)
- Why do you think Jesus instructed the healed man not to tell anyone about the miracle, and what does this teach us about the nature of Jesus' ministry? (Mark 1:44)
- Why did Jesus command the man to show himself to the priest and offer sacrifices according to the law? (Mark 1:44)

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?):

- In what ways can we reflect Jesus' willingness to touch the untouchable in our lives?
- How has desperation played a part in your relationship with Jesus? Was it essential to see Jesus how you see him?
- Jesus demanded obedience from the leper. Reflecting on this and looking at our own lives, what value do you believe Jesus places on obedience in our lives?
- What kind of challenges present themselves from this study regarding your life as it is?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group know how to apply the challenge?):

- What opportunities are available to you to reach out to different cultural or ethnic groups? How do you currently engage those who are different than you?
- Do you believe what you know about Jesus and the scripture leaves room for inclusivity and love for all people? If so, how?
- What role does hospitality play in engaging with different people, and how can you practice it? What could this kind of hospitality look like?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?):

- As we navigate our daily lives, what shift in mindset would enable us to reflect Jesus more authentically and serve as his witnesses?
- What does it mean to see every tribe, tongue and nation as part of God's Kingdom, and how does that affect your daily decisions?
- What is one step you can take to encourage God's Kingdom worldwide?