

JESUS TOUCHED HIM

GOSPEL OF MARK 1:40-45

In this Gospel reading, we notice two important elements we can learn from: **FIRST**, the deep faith of the man affected by leprosy.

SECOND, Jesus' mysterious command to the man not to spread around the news of the miraculous healing.

FIRST: "If you choose, you can make me clean ". These words of the man who suffered the horrible disease of leprosy, speak volumes of the deep faith he had in Jesus. He did not say "if you can", but "if you choose", because he had no doubts in the power of Jesus to heal. Here we are reminded of the faith of the Roman Centurion who begged Jesus to heal his sick servant with the words: "I am not worthy that you enter under my roof, but **ONLY SAY THE WORD**, and my servant will be healed".

The leper was aware of his condition: because of his disease he had lost everything, including family and friends. Therefore, when he meets Jesus, he recognizes in him the one person **WHO HAS EVERYTHING** and who could restore him back to health and give him **NEW LIFE**. From the healed leper, we can learn the **ATTITUDE** we ought to have in prayer: "Lord, I am nothing and have nothing, but you are my God and everything belongs to you. Whatever you choose for me is a free gift, because you, Lord, are compassionate and generous. I am a poor sinner, and you are the all holy. I accept whatever you will for me."

SECOND: why did Jesus command to not divulge the miraculous healing? One of the reasons may have to do with the possible misinterpretation of the meaning behind the miracles: people would focus their attention more on passing things of this world and try to manipulate Jesus for the purpose of attaining material comforts, rather than seeking personal conversion for the salvation of their souls.

Miracles were meant to be a sign of God's Kingdom, and a proof of God's power to give freedom and healing from the bondage of sin that separated people from God's love. Jesus' miracles were meant to point to the eternal life in heaven, not to the temporary life on earth.

Let us ask ourselves: **WHAT DO I LIVE FOR? - WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF MY PRAYER? IF I WERE TO MEET JESUS, WHAT WOULD I ASK OF HIM?**

"LORD JESUS, WE ASK YOU TO TOUCH AND PURIFY OUR HEARTS.

IF YOU CHOOSE, YOU CAN MAKE US WHOLE IN MIND, BODY AN SOUL."