

## The Untouchables

Scripture – Luke 5:12-14

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February 29, 2004

Luke 5:12-14

*And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. [13] And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. [14] And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.*

### I. Introduction

- A. The TV show, “The Untouchables” (1959-1963) starred Robert Stack as Eliot Ness. Each week these FBI agents would capture or kill gangland leaders.
- B. However, in this text we have a different type of untouchable, a person who is an outcast in society.
  - 1. As African Americans we should be able to understand being an untouchable.
- C. In this story, we find a leper who is in need of healing.
  - 1. Mosaic Law commands a leper to be quarantined.
  - 2. He approached Jesus with humility by falling on his face.
  - 3. He approached Jesus with faith by calling Him “Lord”.
    - a. He recognized that Jesus had the right to refuse him.
    - b. Only God’s grace and mercy moves Him to bless us.
  - 4. Jesus displays His pity and power by touching and healing this man.

### II. Jesus Touched Him As A Physician

- A. Leprosy is an incurable disease and the Jews believe only God can cure a person from such a disease.
  - 1. *Leprosy* – A skin disease that causes growths on the skin and can cause limbs to fall off.
  - 2. Matter of fact, the text states he was “full of leprosy” which means he was in the advanced stage of the disease.
- B. Jesus is still a physician today healing the incurable of -  
*Cancer Aids Diabetes Depression*

### III. Jesus Touched Him As A Priest

- A. Leprosy represent sin, therefore the man needed cleansing not just healing.
- B. Jesus being the great High Priest is able to cleanse us from all sin.
- C. Jesus still had the man follow the Old Testament command
  - 1. Show himself to the priest to certify the miracle
  - 2. Offer the proper sacrifice to God

#### IV. Jesus Touched Him As A Person

- A. This man had been separated from family and friends for many years because of the leprosy.
  - 1. Since leprosy is a slow acting disease it would take many years for it to reach its advance stage.
- B. Jewish law required him to stay at least six feet away from other people.
  - 1. He had to call out “unclean” when he approached others.
  - 2. He had to wear black garments so that others could see him from afar.
  - 3. This is what must be done when the unclean enter the presence of the clean.  
(See Isaiah 6:1-5)
- C. Imagine not being able to touch your wife, children, mother, father, or friends.
  - 1. Holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and family reunions would all go by but you cannot attend.
  - 2. No doubt his family would bring him food and other provisions but he still could not touch them.
- D. Therefore he longed to be touched by another person.
  - 1. This touch by Jesus would heal his emotional wound.
  - 2. The church does not do a very good job of healing emotional wounds.
- E. Jesus was uniquely qualified to touch him.
  - 1. Jesus is 100% God and 100% man.
  - 2. Jesus’ deity could heal the physical disease and cleanse him spiritually.
  - 3. Jesus’ humanity could heal the emotional wounds of not being touched all these years.

#### V. Conclusion

- A. When Jesus touches your life, it is changed forever.
  - 1. He leaves His mark on our life.
  - 2. Example of leaving a fingerprint.
  - 3. Therefore, He changes our walk, talk, thinking, and direction.
- B. There was a little girl of average looks and intelligence:
  - 1. Born 1910 in Macedonia to Albanian parents.
  - 2. Became a nun by age 12 years old.
  - 3. At age 36 she received a call from God, “to serve among the poorest of the poor.”
  - 4. She served in the slums of Calcutta, India.
  - 5. There she ministered to the hungry, naked, homeless, crippled, blind, and lepers.
  - 6. She touched the unwanted, unloved, and uncared for people.
  - 7. Her name is Mother Teresa.
  - 8. God has called us to touch the untouchable
- C. Song: He Touched Me

*Shackled by a heavy burden,  
Beneath a load of guilt and shame,  
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,  
Now I am no longer the same,  
He touched me, O, He touched me, and  
O, the joy that floods my soul,  
Something happened and now I know,  
He touched me and made me whole.*