

Defiled and Dying

Main Scripture: Matthew 8:1-4

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 15; Revelation 3: 1-5; Mark 5:25-34

Notes:

Welcome to our visiting friends and folks from North Bay. I pray your hearts will be challenged to bless the wonderful name of Jesus. This is our last day of our fast and we want the Lord to touch us and bless us. Yesterday we recognize when the Pharisees accused his disciples of not following the traditions of the law but Jesus shared a parable stating in Matthew 15 that from the heart come evil thoughts what is in the heart that defile you not eating with unwashed hands.

This morning as disciples of Jesus we want to fall down before him and cry out to Him and pour out our all before him and touch Jesus. We want to make a connection with him this morning.

Book of Revelation 3 talking about the church in Sardis (Revelation 3:4) that those who have not soiled their clothes in evil will walk with Christ.

We can be deceived by traditions that seem ok but far removed from the divinely ordained purpose. as we go along life's journey we become estranged from what the Lord has called us to. And if we are not careful we become performers in the kingdom of God. Where our lips are not saying what our heart is saying.

Jesus says to the church in Sardis to wake up and strengthen what little remains. We want to align ourselves with purpose and the individual call that God has placed on our lives. if there is any defilement that challenges us from performing at optimum levels we need him to purge us.

Lord, I Believe All things are possible.

Matthew 8: 1-4; Mark 1: 40-44

A public testimony that you have been cleansed

In both accounts of Matthew and Mark, this man who was a leper was not given a name. Perhaps his condition made him an outcast and it was not necessary for one to identify with him. But large crowds followed Jesus. The light, glorious light was shining into darkness and darkness could not overpower it, it came into the world, and as Jesus began his ministry, a ministry of compassion, mercy, and grace, it attracted many people who had no hope. People who were possibly condemned by others found hope in Jesus.

Matthew used the word suddenly in the midst of the crowd here comes a man who is out of place. A man who should not be in the midst of the crowd. the closest one should be to a person who had this disease was six feet but he broke in on the crowd because Jesus was in the midst. This man was determined to see Jesus.

In Leviticus, the leper was defiled and we should note that there was no cure for the disease only God could heal a man who was a leper. Leprosy is considered the worst disease and also speaks to a type of sin. In Judaism, they consider it the result of evil speech. this man was defiled and dying. there was no cure for his disease, But Jesus was passing by. the leper was banished and outcast, totally ostracized from society, and all his days he was considered unclean and had to dwell in a camp with folks who had a similar condition, and anything he touches is considered unclean. He must have heard about Jesus and said as he broke in on the crowd "Lord if you are willing you can heal me and make me clean" the man's desire was to be clean and healed. So is it as we journey through this Christian walk, at times we sin against God, at times we become defile in the presence of the Lord but as we are in His presence if we can focus our mind on Jesus we know that there is hope in Jesus. We know that the only one that can make us clean is Jesus. There is no hope in the world that can remove the guilt only Jesus can clean us and make us right before him. Only the power of God can cleanse a man. So this leper is in the process of dying, love passed by him and he focused on life and cried out to life. I am speaking to someone that there is a call that is deposited in your spirit but as you journey, you found yourself in defilement and the anointing and energy and zeal that once consumed you is slowly slipping away and the tears are falling on your pillow in your state of defilement wanting to give your all to God but every time you rise to move you hear in the midst unclean as the enemy makes an accusation on your conscience and your heart cant find the direction

But if your heart condemns you God is greater than your heart and Jesus is passing by and He has the power to clean you up that if you get in His presence he has the power to make you clean. the Leper was suffering. His skin was diseased from his head to his feet, sores all over but Jesus is passing by and all I need to do is to focus on him. the leper came to Jesus and said Lord if you are willing you can heal me. He recognized Jesus had the power to make him right. He came falling at Jesus' feet (Luke said he fell on his face) I need someone to turn your attention to Jesus and recognize all power belongs to him. Turn your attention back to him he can make us clean. We just need to put our faith in Him.

Jesus is willing - instantly his leprosy disappeared. I am talking about being in the presence of the eternal GOD.

WHAT IS YOUR LEPROSY?

what made you defiled before God and caused us not to have the move of God flowing in our being? I challenge you, that if you can identify it and bring it in the presence of God that he has the ability to allow the holy ghost to move on you. Probably it's leprosy that consumed your prayer life or leprosy that removed you from the realms of prophecy and now seemingly you're functioning but you are in a level of pride and arrogance and the purity of the anointing is not flowing. Jesus Knows your need that you are coming to him and what you need to remove the spirit of defilement. All we need to do is come clean before him " Lord if you are willing you can make me clean." Recognized how quickly the lord responded "I am willing" reach out and touch and as he touched him the defilement left the man. Mark tells us that Jesus charged him not to tell but show himself to the priest to be a public testimony that you have been cleansed but the man went and spread the word what had happened. I want us as we head back in prayer, ask the Lord to lay it on our mind where did we become defiled? What happened? where did we drop the ball? where did we compromise our faith and integrity? perhaps wrong associations, perhaps greed in this world of materialism, perhaps the passion for this world has driven us cold. Jesus is here the unclean has just got to come clean. If you are willing you can make me whole. Lord, I am a leper and I need your touch. I don't desire to die in defilement I want to be made whole.

Mark 5:25-34 -tells us about a woman who had a bleeding issue. Blood was flowing uncontrollably the scripture tells us that life is in the blood she was dying, suffered a great deal from many doctors, and only got worse. There are somethings only Jesus can handle, she heard about Jesus and touched the hem of His garment but in Leviticus 15 we recognize she was out of place because she was in a state of defilement but she heard that Jesus was passing by. She was hopeless as it concerns the doctors but her hope was pointing towards the life-giver. She said to herself, all I need to do is to touch the hem of his garment and I will be made whole. when she reached out and touched the

hem of his garment immediately the bleeding stopped and the fountain ceased. it tells us the condition of the woman, Blood was gushing and she could feel that she had been healed. Jesus realized that power had gone from him and he turned in the crowd and said who touched me? the disciples not understanding ask how can you ask that in a crowd and the woman fell to her knees and told him what she had done. "Daughter your faith made you well" Ladies and Gentlemen as we pray our entire focus at this point is on Christ Jesus. I am not leaving his presence without a touch. I can't function with a partial anointing. An anointing that is not flowing as it should. I am not leaving here with the condition remaining the same I am not leaving here with words of guilt and accusation in my conscience. Whatever it is I am leaving his presence clean.