

CHANGING A LEPER'S SPOTS

Mark 1:40-45

The oldest recorded disease—and probably the most dreaded throughout history—is leprosy. In fact, it is so dreaded, so abhorrent, it has been almost impossible to enlighten the public about its true nature. The moral and social stigma leprosy carries with it is so great, that those who have the disease prefer to say they have Hansen's disease (or better, "HD"), since the word leprosy is so despicable. Through the years, victims of leprosy have been quarantined in a "leprosarium," located in a remote area, far removed from the general public. Tragically, as we trace leprosy all the way back into the Old Testament, we learn that lepers lived their lives in quiet desperation. Should they ever appear in public, they were required to shout, "*Unclean . . . Unclean!*" Not only considered physically incurable, lepers became so grotesque, even frightening in appearance, "respectable society" shunned them, fearing they were contagious. In the Scripture passage we examine today, Jesus comes face-to-face with a leper. Mark leaves no doubt regarding His response.

OUR LORD CLEANSSES A LEPER

Exposition

- A Surprising Encounter and a Request (v. 40)

- A Compassionate Response and a Miracle (vv. 41-42)

- A Stern Warning and a Dismissal (vv. 43-44)

- A Public Announcement and the Results (v. 45)

OUR LORD SPEAKS TO US

Application

- Our Need for _____
- Our Response to _____