



Here we see a leper coming to Jesus at his wit's end. Driven by Mosaic Law and societal demand, this leper was compelled to live a life of seclusion from his loved ones. Living as an outcast and acutely aware of his own grotesque deformity, he could only look on a normalcy that's at once so appealing and so out of reach. This leper was driven to madness, and in his desperation, he came and fell at Jesus' feet.

But how dare he come before Jesus whom he must have heard to be filled with the presence of God? His physical uncleanness testified against himself. Why would Jesus accept him? Falling at Jesus' feet, his only plea was *"if You are willing, You can make me clean."*

His was no bargaining position but Jesus heard his despairing cry. *"A battered reed He (Jesus) will not break off and a smothering wick He will not put out."*
[Matthew 12: 19, 20]

How we all long for the mercy and compassion of others but we were often greeted with some cruel pleasantries. How easy it is to brush each other's needs aside, but Jesus did not turn him away with some heartless gesture. In the leper's moment of utter helplessness, Jesus met him with genuine love and acceptance that goes beyond the need for outward healing. He *touched* the leper when a divine word would do. "I am willing" was more than a simple affirmation, it was the Savior's personal antidote to the disappointment and despair that this leper had grown accustomed for far too long. The Savior's touch was His affirmation of unconditional love directed toward the untouchable.



The Scripture does not describe a story of yesteryear because our living Savior is still at work today. In the highway and byways of life, the Savior Jesus understands our every troubles even if they are incomprehensible to others. As our Creator, He sees through our deepest longings. As the Good Shepherd of our whole being, He longs to be gracious to us. How He longs to "make you lie down in green pastures" and to "lead you beside

quiet waters", if only you would allow Him to touch you with His ever personal touch. Do you have a need as glaring as leprosy or as deep as the hopelessness hunkered deep within this leper's heart? You may have sought after many solutions or even the so-called guru, but have you ever turn your eyes to Jesus and come before him with your heartfelt petition? Have you ever give Him your attention just long enough to realize Jesus does love you like no other, one who would even take your place on the cross to die for your sins. He would expend His life for you and me, He would suffer the bitter consequences of our sins to give us a place in eternity. All these He did quietly, not clamoring for our applause but waiting for us to realize how truly and deeply He has loved us. If He would do so much when we care not for Him, would He not do much more when we come to Him with our despairing cry? Jesus waits to be your Savior and Friend – are you willing?

I've found a Friend, oh, such a Friend
He bled, He died to save me;
And not alone the gift of life,
But His own self He gave me.
Naught that I have my own I call,
I hold it for the Giver;
My heart, my strength, my life, my all,
Are His, and His forever.

If You are willing ...

A story from the Gospel according to Mark
Mark chapter 1 verse 40, 41

For God so loves the world that He gave
His only begotten Son that whosoever
believes in Him should not perish but have
everlasting life

John chapter 3 verse 16

Psalm 34: 18

*"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,
And saves those who are crushed in spirit"*

Isaiah 30: 18

*Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to
you,
And therefore He waits on high to have
compassion on you.
For the Lord is a God of justice;
How blessed are all those who long for Him*

Acts 22: 16

*And now why do you delay?
Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your
sins, calling on His name"*

**Pour out your heart in simple prayer.
He hears you! If God so put in your
heart, you may visit us at:**

**Christian Believers' Meeting
146-29 Laburnum Ave
Flushing, NY 11355
516-234-0868**

And a leper came to Jesus,
beseeching Him and falling on
his knees before Him, and
saying, "If You are willing, You
can make me clean." Moved
with compassion, Jesus
stretched out His hand and
touched him, and said to him,
"I am willing; be cleansed."

■ Mark Chapter 1 verse 40, 41

Dear Reader,

Perhaps you are tempted to
consider a story on leprosy is
inconsequential to you or a
story involving Jesus is just a
make-believe with good moral.
Yet just before you cast aside
this true story once and for all,
would you consider pausing just
long enough to ponder the
characters and perhaps hear
the voice of the Bible speaking
to you ...