

JESUS' POWER OVER DISEASE: LEPROSY
(Matthew 8:1-4)

- I. Further Description of Jesus' Ministry in GALILEE (cf. Matt. 4:23-25)
 - A. Example of the King's ministry of TEACHING (Matt. 5:3 – 7:27)
 - B. Examples of the King's demonstrations of POWER (Matt. 8:1 – 9:38)
 - C. Begins with the King's power over DISEASE
 - 1. Healed without FANFARE
 - 2. Healed without DELAY
 - 3. Healed without RESTRICTION
- II. The Leper's APPROACH (Matt. 8:1-2)
 - A. His condition was DREADFUL
 - 1. A leper was DISFIGURED
 - 2. A leper was INCURABLE
 - 3. A leper was SHUNNED, even REPELLED
 - 4. A leper was considered CURSED by GOD
 - B. His PRESENTATION demonstrated simple FAITH
 - 1. He came CONFIDENTLY
 - 2. He came REVERENTLY

3. He came HUMBLY
4. He came BELIEVINGLY

III. The King's RESPONSE (Matt. 8:3-4)

A. His ACTION was SHOCKING

1. He TOUCHED the leper (cf. Lev. 13:3)
2. He said, "I AM WILLING"

B. His WORDS were EFFECTIVE

1. He said, "BE CLEANSED"
2. The LEPROSY was IMMEDIATELY removed

C. His DIRECTIONS were PRACTICAL

1. Tell NO ONE what JESUS had done
 - a. He was not a "wonderworker" playing to CROWDS
 - b. His authority derived from GOD, not popular acclaim
 - c. He came to DIE, not to defeat the ROMANS
2. Present himself to the PRIEST for VERIFICATION
3. Present the appropriate OFFERING as instructed in the LAW (cf. Lev. 14)

D. His HEALING was INSTRUCTIVE

1. Leprosy is a vivid depiction of SIN
2. The healing has many parallels with SALVATION
3. The RESULT would be "a TESTIMONY to them"