The Free Wash Job

Intro:

1. The youth group car wash: it’s free - but a donation is expected.

2. The Lord’s wash job (the cross), however, is totally free!

*Matthew 8:1-4*

# I. v2 - The Condition.

A. What is leprosy?

1. The most common variety today is called Hansen’s Disease.

a. Sores begin to spread over the entire body.

b. Bones & nerves are affected causing much pain & deformity.

c. The head & face take on a lion like appearance.

d. Death occurs within 10 years.

3. The Bible Variety.

a. Leprosy (λέπρα) = a skin disease. (This could include a number of diseases of the skin)

b. Law: quarantine, cover whole body, stay at least a 6’ distance, cry “Unclean!”.

c. Gradually turns all the skin white; then inspected & pronounced “clean” by a priest.

4. Examples in the Bible:

a. ILL: Moses: as a sign that God was directing him. (Ex 4:6-7)

b. ILL: Miriam: as a sign that God was directing her brother. (Num 12:10)

c. ILL: Naaman: to demonstrate obedience to God & as a foreshadow of baptism. (II Kgs 5:1-14)

B. v2 - He didn’t doubt the Lord’s ability - only His willingness.

1. What faith! Only one time was leprosy ever cured (Naaman).

2. Lk 5:12 says he was “covered with leprosy” or full of leprosy. It was in it’s advanced stages; a hopeless situation.

C. Leprosy & sin compared.

1. They both are ugly: leprosy is ugly - sin is ugly.

2. They both cause separation.

a. Leprosy separates from society.

b. Sin separates from God & godly people.

3. Restoration comes when they are considered white.

a. Leprosy: fellowship is restored when the priest declares him “all white”.

b. Divine deliverance comes as the Lord’s blood washes us “white as snow”! (Rev 7:9-14)

# II. v3 - The Cleansing.

A. Lord Jesus stretched forth His hand making fellowship & service possible.

1. Jesus did what no one else would dare do - He touched a leper.

2. Only the High Priest had the legal right to touch a leper & then only after he was inspected & considered clean.

3. Jesus expressed His desire to heal by echoing the leper’s request “if you are willing” with “I am willing”.

4. As a result of the touch & the command “Be clean”, the leprosy was washed away!

B. Lord Jesus died on the cross making fellowship & service possible.

1. Sin stands as a barrier between you & God.

2. The cross breaks down that barrier by paying the price for your sin.

# III. v4 - The Command

A. The leper had to restore himself by obeying what God told him to do.

1. He was cleansed - but not legally restored.

2. The Law of Moses declared that he must go to the priest, be inspected & declared clean, & then provide the appropriate thank offering. (Lev 14:1-32)

B. The cleansed sinner must restore himself by obeying what the Bible tells him to do.

1. The blood of Jesus makes fellowship & service possible - but only personal obedience makes it real!

2. The response:

a. Act 2:38 - Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

b. Act 22:16 - And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

3. The cleansing of Naaman was a foreshadow of the cleaning of sin.

4. Save yourselves from this corrupt generation because the price for your sin has already been paid! - Act 2:40

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# Lord Jesus provided for your free wash job on the cross!

# Now come and receive it

# to be cleansed!

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