

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

Lord Jesus provided for your free wash job on the cross!
Now come and receive it
to be cleansed!

<https://www.biblelifemessages.org>