

Sixth Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year B

- Leper says “If you wish it, you can make me clean” NOT “healed”
SO WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING HEALED AND MADE CLEAN
Leper asked to be Clean – Jesus Agrees (**Let me explain UNCLEAN**)
A leper could be healed but could not enter the temple unless declared ‘clean’
The physical could be healed – but **the total person has to be cleansed**

Jesus says “Show yourself to the priest and do what was prescribed” LEV. 14
STRIP, WASH, SHAVE, INSPECTED, 7 DAYS REPEATED
– sacrificial blood on RIGHT EAR THUMB TOE
(Once back in the temple - whatever he HEARD, DID, WENT, recall mercy of God)
Cleansing was more than healing – that’s why JC sent him to the priest

- But Jesus does something else – He could have said “Be Healed” but he touches him.
WHY - Jesus doesn’t heal to show off
Jesus heals “moved with pity”
Jesus TOUCHES the leper & Jesus becomes unclean
He could no longer enter the Temple or Synagogue
He had BONDED himself to the OUTCAST

- Jesus bonds Himself to US – in our sin WE are the UNCLEAN
In our sin God should walk away – but that’s using human standards
God’s ways are not our ways – MY ways
God touches us and makes US clean
God touches the leper and then says “Now don’t tell anybody”
But he’s gotta tell He’s made new, washed clean
When Jesus touches you – you gotta tell somebody
- 2nd Reading Paul talks about how WE should reach out (just as Jesus did to the leper)
 - He tells Corinthians – whatever you do, do it for glory of God
 - Whatever you do → Avoid offense, in every way **WHY?**
THAT **THEY** MAY BE SAVED (our actions & those around us)
Our goal when dealing with our ‘outcasts’ is:
That they may encounter the love of Christ - IN US
That they may join us here and we might grow Kingdom of God

Is it time for **us** to reach out and touch the ‘unclean’ in our lives?
Are we ready for that? Some YES Some NO
Are we ready to bring the love of Christ wherever we go?
To the town drunk, the hobo, **the family reject?**
Hard questions – it’s not easy

But let me ask you - Has Jesus reached out and touched you? Have you been made clean?
Maybe he wants you to reach out and touch someone.
So that wherever you go, Whatever you do – you grow the Kingdom of God.