

Sixth Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year B

- Some people have asked me about my face
  - a. Red blotches on my forehead and round my eyes
  - b. Pre-Cancerous and cream to treat it
    - i. It's not hopeless – they know what it is and how to treat it.
  - c. Some of you may have had poison wood, or chicken pox
  - d. It's different from what I have but you can get blisters, boils, itches badly
  - e. Well just like I have medicine there is medicine for that
    - i. Not hopeless – CALAMINE LOTION
      - 1. It eases the itch & in a few days it passes
- When Jesus lived leprosy was common
  - a. Covered with sores – no cure – hopeless
    - WORSE – they thought the sickness was because of evil deeds
  - b. They were UNCLEAN – nobody could even touch them
  - c. One day a man comes to J “ If you wish it, you can make me clean”  
I AM WILLING
- 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  
Because of 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 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  
Has Jesus reached out and touched you?      Have **you** been made clean?  
Maybe he wants to touch YOU because he wants you to reach out and touch someone.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 offence, in every way – WHY?  
“So as to win over as many as possible”

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

Who are the outcasts in your life - rejects

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?**

Who are our lepers? Hard questions – it's not easy

But if Jesus loves them, who are we to condemn?