

INTRO - 1st & PS ENGLISH 2nd & Gospel Spanish

Today we're going to hear about leprosy HANSEN's DISEASE – hard to relate to in NSJ 2018

When I worked SSCC – Damien of Molokai – Hawaii & now India

While physical leprosy is rare today – spiritual leprosy is not

Physically – numbness, muscle weakness, blindness

Spiritually – numb to evil, spiritual weakness, blind → We can learn a lot from leprosy today

LEV – we've already talked a little about leprosy – listen to what God tells Moses to do when dealing with people with leprosy **READ IT**

- When I visit a hospital I often will come upon a room that with a warning on the door. It will say, “Infection. All visitors must check with nurses and then use mask, gloves and gown.”
 - The poor patient like an outcast - BUT we at least taking care of them
 - That was not the case back in the days of our Jesus
 - When people were seen as infected, they were cut off.
 - No one would care for them, no matter how sick they were. They were unclean.
 - In fact, that had to walk around with a bell and continually shout, “Unclean, Unclean.” By *unclean* they meant more than dirty. *Unclean* meant “possessed by evil.”
 - They had to call out “Unclean,” not just so people could avoid them, but so the people could be protected from the evil that must have done this to them.
 - Can you relate? Anyone have friends/family avoid you in NSJ?
 - Are we the UNCLEAR in their lives?
 - The leper's lives were hopeless – OURS ARE NOT – WE HAVE HOPE
 - THUS – PS 32 “-----” **READ IT**
 - In our time of trouble God wants to give us joy
 - To take away faults --- To cover our sin --- To forgive
 - Unlike lepers our lives are NOT hopeless
 - Despite our trouble, despite NSJ, God brings us the JOY of salvation
- 1COR – **READ IT THEN GOSPEL - READ IT**
- 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 UNCLEAR)
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
Now Jesus 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 UNCLEAR
In our sin God should walk away – but that's using human standards
 - We come before the Lord, and he doesn't see our sin.
 - He sees someone He loves who is hurting – and He heals us.
 - He saves us from the grips of evil.
- How horrible to go through life feeling unclean with Jesus Christ, none of us are unclean.
 - In fact, we are more than not unclean. – His beloved