

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

WALKING WITH JESUS

RLJ-1490

JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 3: LOVING THE PARIAH

THE LEPER

Jesus came down the mountain after preaching to thousands of people and met a man with leprosy who had heard about the Messiah and must have noticed the throngs of people walking behind Jesus. **Matthew 8:1**

Jewish law stated that a person with leprosy was forbidden to have any contact with anyone who was not a leper; it was a death sentence for a leper to come in contact with a healthy person. Nevertheless, this man took a chance in approaching Jesus and saying, "If you want, you can heal me." **verse 2**

Jesus broke the law when He touched the leper and confirmed that his healing from this dreaded disease as the flesh damaged by leprosy was instantly healed. **verse 3**

In order to return to his family and resume a normal life, Jesus told the leper to contact the health authorities and be given a bill of clean health. **verse 4**

LEPER SUMMARY

Let's examine what took place with the leper:

1. The man with leprosy knew that Jesus could heal him.
2. The leper challenged Jesus whether He actually wanted to heal him.
3. Jesus responded to this man's faith and honesty according to the new spiritual law (seek and ask) He had just spoken into existence earlier that day. **Matthew 7:7-11**

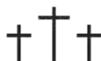
THE CENTURION

According to Jewish law, a Jew was forbidden personal contact with a Gentile. This included Roman officers and soldiers, who enforced the brutal occupation of Palestine. Jesus healed the leper as He was walking towards the city of Capernaum with His disciples and thousands of people following. It was just inside the city that He met a Roman officer, who was in charge of a detachment of 100 Roman soldiers. **Matthew 8:5**

The centurion humbled himself when he asked a Jew for a personal favor. **verse 6**

The centurion had a need and recognized that Jesus was no ordinary Jewish man but a man of God operating in the power of the spoken word. Jesus not only promised to heal the servant, but He was willing to personally go to this Roman officer's house. **verse 7**

The Roman centurion responded with a bold statement of his faith. As an officer, he controlled the soldiers in his unit and stated that Jesus was in control of the spirit world. The centurion believed there was no need for Jesus to personally come because the servant would be healed if Jesus only spoke the command. **verses 8-9**



Jesus was surprised that a Gentile had more faith in God than the people of Israel.
verses 10-12

Jesus honored the centurion's request and spoke the word and the servant was healed. It is important to note that Jesus said these words in parting, "Go your way, as you have believed, so be it unto you." **verse 13**

CENTURION SUMMARY

Let's examine what transpired with the centurion:

1. The centurion did not know about the spiritual law of seek and ask. The Holy Spirit had shown him that Jesus had power to heal the sick.
2. The centurion had learned from the Old Testament that God created all things through the spoken word and he expected Jesus to operate in the power of speaking events into existence.
3. Jesus combined these two spiritual laws when He instructed the disciples to seek, ask and speak out in faith that what they spoke would come to pass. **John 14:11-14**

A Christian is what he speaks and believes!

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?