



## OPEN

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The gospel of Mark reads like an action movie trailer cutting quickly from scene to scene. Unlike the other gospels, Mark does not rely on genealogy or birth narrative but demonstrates Jesus' authority as the Messiah through both word and deed. Jesus heals sickness and casts out demons as he brings the kingdom of God to bare against disease, death, and the devil. Jesus demonstrates his authority when he touches the untouchable and heals a leper. As we examine the story we will learn that the leper is changed when when he **meets with Jesus, is loved by Jesus, is touched by Jesus, and in turn shares Jesus with others.**

## REFLECT

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- Mark introduces Jesus as the Messiah by *demonstrating* his authority as he teaches, heals, and casts out demons (1:21-28). How has Jesus demonstrated his power and authority in your life? How has that shaped your faith?
- The leper's we meet in 1:40 lives in isolation not simply for fear of spreading a disease but to remove impurity from the Holy presence of God. What comes to mind when you think of the holiness of God?
- Only a priest could declare an unclean person clean again (Lev 14). Read Hebrews 10:19-23. Spiritually how are we like the leper who is in need of a priest to declare us "clean"? What confidence does Jesus provide the leper and us?

## DISCUSS

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- The leper comes to Jesus for physical healing but Jesus gives him so much more. Jesus heals him physically from his skin disease but also relationally through cleansing allowing him to return to his community (1:42). How has Jesus worked in your life to give you more than what you thought you needed?
- Jesus could have healed with his words but he chooses to touch the untouchable (1:41). Why do you think he does this? When has someone encouraged you through physical touch? How can we participate with the incarnational ministry of Jesus as we interact with others?
- Jesus responds to the leper's request by being emotionally moved (1:41). When has the Holy Spirit made you uncomfortable to the suffering of others in a way that caused you to respond? How is Jesus developing his heart for others in you?

## APPLY

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- In what ways/areas do you need to draw nearer to Jesus for him to provide healing and cleansing in your life today?
- The incarnation, God becoming flesh in the person of Jesus, was God's way of demonstrating his love and desire to be present with his people. As you continue the ministry of Jesus how can you be more physically present in the lives of others?
- Jesus' ministry is not about personal glory but about glorifying God. What can we learn from this in our lives?

## PRAY

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- Pray that God would give you his heart for others who may feel isolated because of sin or circumstances.
- Pray that you would be able to be more physically present in the lives of others to demonstrate Jesus' love to them.
- Is there any area of your life that needs healing. Pray that for each other.