Willing and Able

Mark Norman
The Gospel of Mark

Laying some groundwork

Understanding today’s story

Looking for me
The Gospel of Mark

The record of Peter’s experience

AD 60, near Rome for Romans

Jesus acts with authority

Invitation/challenge to follow
Four unnamed companions of a paralytic
A leper
An unclean, hemorrhaging woman
A man with a withered hand
A Syrophoenician woman
The father of an epileptic son
A blind man
A penniless widow
A woman who anoints Jesus at Bethany
The centurion at the cross
I trust that you will find the figure of Jesus worthy of your attention: unpredictable yet reliable, gentle yet powerful, authoritative yet humble, human yet divine. I urge you to seriously consider the significance of his life in your own.

Timothy Keller
And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” 42 And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. 43 And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, 44 and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” 45 But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.
Looking for me in the story
Looking for me in the story

Acknowledging power and plan.
And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.”

Mark 1:40
Through faith they conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated...

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised.

Hebrews 11:33-39
A thorn was given me in the flesh, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Cor. 12:7-9
Looking for me in the story

Acknowledging power and plan.
Looking for me in the story
Acknowledging power and plan.
A word to all us lepers.
Miriam - rebellion against Moses
(Numbers 12:9-15).

Gehazi - greed
(2 Kings 5:20-27)

David curses Joab’s descendants
(2 Samuel 3:29)

King Uzziah presumptuously offered incense
(2 Chronicles 26:16-21)
The leprosy/sin connection

Life-defining problem
The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ 46 He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.

Leviticus 13:45-46
The leprosy/sin connection

Life-defining problem
No human solution
The leprosy/sin connection

Life-defining problem
No human solution
Effects are far reaching
The leprosy/sin connection

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A “Jesus-only” cure
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Mark 1:40-42
The leprosy/sin connection

Life-defining problem
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Effects are far reaching
A “Jesus-only” cure
Message beyond the miracle
And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, 44 and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” 45 But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

Mark 1:43-45
The priest shall command them to take for him who is to be cleansed two live clean birds and cedarwood and scarlet yarn and hyssop. 5 And the priest shall command them to kill one of the birds in an earthenware vessel over fresh water. 6 He shall take the live bird with the cedarwood and the scarlet yarn and the hyssop, and dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the fresh water. 7 And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed of the leprous disease. Then he shall pronounce him clean and shall let the living bird go into the open field.

Leviticus 14:4-7
“Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” 4 And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.”

Matthew 11:3-5
“Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came.”

Mark 1:38
Looking for me in the story
Acknowledging power and plan.
A word to all us lepers.
“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the good news.”

Mark 1:15
And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.”

Mark 1:40-41