

Mark 1:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

Analysis

Christ's compassion (Greek: *splagchnizomai*, moved in the inward parts) demonstrates God's heart toward the afflicted. His physical touch was revolutionary—others fled from lepers, but Jesus touched the untouchable, showing that His holiness cleanses rather than being defiled by contact with uncleanness. The immediate healing displays divine power, while the touch displays divine love—both necessary for true redemption.

Historical Context

Touching a leper made one ceremonially unclean for seven days, requiring ritual purification. Jesus' willingness to touch violated purity laws, yet demonstrated His authority over the Levitical system. His touch would have been the first human contact this leper experienced in perhaps years or decades.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's touch of the leper challenge our fear of being 'contaminated' by close contact with sinners?
2. What does the combination of compassion and power in this healing reveal about the character of God?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	Ἰησοῦς	σπλαγχνισθεὶς	ἐκτείνας	τὴν	χεῖρα
G3588	And	Jesus	moved with compassion	put forth	G3588	his hand
	G1161	G2424	G4697	G1614		G5495
ἥψατο	αὐτῷ	καὶ	λέγει	αὐτῷ	Θέλω	καθαρίσθητι·
and touched	him	and	saith	him	I will	be thou clean
G680	G846	G2532	G3004	G846	G2309	G2511

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 9:36 (Parallel theme): But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Hebrews 2:17 (Parallel theme): Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 4:15 (Parallel theme): For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Mark 6:34 (References Jesus): And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

Hebrews 1:3 (Parallel theme): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power,

when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Mark 5:41 (Parallel theme): And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

Mark 4:39 (Parallel theme): And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Genesis 1:3 (Parallel theme): And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.