

Matthew 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying,
Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Analysis

The leper's approach 'worshipped him' shows recognition of Jesus' deity or at minimum His divine authority. His statement 'Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean' demonstrates faith in Jesus' power while submitting to His sovereignty. The leper understood his need (unclean), Jesus' ability (canst), but humbly deferred to Jesus' will (if thou wilt). This is the pattern of effective prayer—confident in God's ability, submissive to His will.

Historical Context

Leprosy (various skin diseases) rendered one ceremonially unclean under Mosaic Law, requiring isolation outside the camp (Leviticus 13). Contact with lepers was forbidden. The leper's approach broke social and religious barriers, demonstrating desperate faith.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the leper's combination of faith and submission model prayer for you?
2. What 'leprosy' in your life needs Jesus' cleansing touch?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἰδοὺ, λεπρὸς ἐλθὼν προσεκύνει αὐτῷ λέγων,
And behold a leper there came and worshipped him saying
G2532 G2400 G3015 G2064 G4352 G846 G3004

Κύριε ἐὰν θέλῃς δύνασαι με καθαρίσαι
Lord if thou wilt thou canst me clean
G2962 G1437 G2309 G1410 G3165 G2511

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 18:26 (Worship): The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Matthew 15:25 (Worship): Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

Acts 10:25 (Worship): And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

1 Corinthians 14:25 (Worship): And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

Matthew 28:17 (Worship): And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

John 9:38 (Worship): And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

Numbers 12:10 (Parallel theme): And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

Matthew 14:33 (Worship): Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Matthew 20:20 (Worship): Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

Matthew 13:58 (Parallel theme): And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

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