

Matthew 8:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Analysis

Jesus' physical touch—'Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him'—was revolutionary because touching a leper brought ceremonial defilement. Instead of Jesus becoming unclean, His touch cleansed the leper. The immediate healing ('immediately his leprosy was cleansed') demonstrates Jesus' absolute authority over disease and uncleanness. Jesus' 'I will; be thou clean' combines sovereign will with powerful word.

Historical Context

No one touched lepers—physicians examined from a distance. Jesus' touch communicated compassion, acceptance, and restoration before the healing. His willingness to touch demonstrates God's love for outcasts and His power to cleanse sin's defilement without being contaminated.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' willingness to touch the untouchable change your view of His love?
2. Who are the 'lepers' God is calling you to touch with His love?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐκτείνας τὴν χεῖρα ἤψατο αὐτοῦ ὁ Ἰησοῦς
And put forth his hand and touched him Jesus
G2532 G1614 G3588 G5495 G680 G846 G3588 G2424

λέγων, Θέλω ἐκαθαρίσθη καὶ εὐθέως ἐκαθαρίσθη αὐτοῦ
saying I will be thou clean And immediately be thou clean him
G3004 G2309 G2511 G2532 G2112 G2511 G846

ἡ λέπρα
G3588 leprosy
G3014

Additional Cross-References

Luke 5:13 (Parallel theme): And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

Psalms 33:9 (Parallel theme): For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

2 Kings 5:14 (Parallel theme): Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Mark 1:41 (References Jesus): And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

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.

John 5:21 (Parallel theme): For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

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

2 Kings 5:11 (Parallel theme): But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

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 9:25 (References Jesus): When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.