

Jesus Touched a Lepers Skin and Reached His Soul

A man full of leprosy fell on his face and begged Him, saying, 'If You want to, You can make me clean.'

LUKE 5:12

Written by Bill Perkins

A leprous man approached Jesus-
carrying pain no one could see
and wounds no one would touch.

Leprosy killed the nerves
that protected him.
He could slice his hand open,
burn his skin,
snap a bone-
and feel no pain.

Infection spread quietly.
Fingers shortened.
Toes vanished.
Not because the disease consumed them,
but because unnoticed wounds
became unhealed losses.

Open ulcers.
Dead skin.
A face no one recognized.
A smell no one forgot.

The Law pushed him outside
community, dignity, and hope.
He covered his mouth
and shouted his shame:
"Unclean! Unclean!"

No kiss from his wife.
No hug from his kids.
No hand on his shoulder
to say, "You're loved."
Years-maybe decades-
without a single touch.

That pain never went numb-
the ache of being unclean-
untouched, unwanted, unwelcome.

Desperate, he approached Jesus.
He collapsed at His feet-
a broken man before the One
he knew could heal his body.

But Jesus looked past the shell
that others saw
and beheld the soul beneath the ruin-
the soul aching to be seen,
known,
held,
and celebrated.

Moved with compassion,
Jesus stretched out His hand
and touched the leper.

And with that touch,
Jesus healed what no eye could see-
the shame,
the loneliness,
the judgment
that had defined him.

Then Jesus spoke-
two words,
two syllables.

Seven letters
hung in the air
for only a breath.

"Be clean."

And instantly-
ulcers dried,
skin restored,
stench removed.
The man stood whole.

Jesus could have healed him first
and then touched him-
avoiding defilement and disease.
But He didn't.

Jesus touched diseased skin first.
And in doing so,
He healed a broken heart.

Death didn't spread to Jesus.
Life spread from Him.

You may not know this about Jesus:
He touched the leper's skin and reached his soul.

Where do I need a touch from Jesus?

Jesus doesn't wait for me
to get more presentable.
He touches what I hide
and restores what I've lost.

Father, give me the humility
to fall at Jesus' feet
and the faith to believe
He will make me whole.
In Jesus' name, Amen.