

the gospel Jesus' good news for all

noun | Greek εὐαγγέλιον (euangelion)

On Sunday, Pastor Josh led us through the passage where Jesus cleanses a man with leprosy and asked us to consider what Jesus' good news for outcasts. In this week's lesson we'll be diving deeper into what it looks like practically for us to love and pursue justice for the outcasts in our society today.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

DISCUSSION: Mark 1.40-45

40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." **41** Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" **42** Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. **43** Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: **44** "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." **45** Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

Note on leprosy: Leprosy was a serious skin disease that was thought to be highly contagious during Jesus' day. As a result, the people of God had certain laws and customs that separated lepers from the rest of the community for the community's protection (see Leviticus 13-14). Leprosy, then, was not only a physical ailment, but carried social consequences as well.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What might have been going through the leper's mind as he approached Jesus? What might others have thought about the leper approaching Jesus?
- How would others have responded to the leper? How does this compare with how Jesus responds to the man?
- What is the significance of Jesus reaching out to touch the man?
- What was at stake for Jesus as he stepped forward to cleanse the man?
- Why might Jesus charge the man to not say anything?
- What was the cost to Jesus of cleansing the man?
- What do we learn about the way Jesus engages with this leper/outcast?

Introduction Question: When was a moment where you felt like an outcast? Who are the outcasts in our society today?

Reflection Question: What is Jesus' good news for the outcasts in our society today? And what would it look like for us to practically step out to help them experience and receive Jesus' good news?

Small Groups: Break into groups of 3-4 to share about the reflection question and to pray for each other to step out to bring Jesus' good news to the outcasts around us today. Encourage folks to keep praying for and supporting each other this week as we put this passage into practice.

MARK 1.40-45 - Jesus Cleanses a Man with Leprosy

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