

Leper, Withered Hand, and Paralytic Mt 8:1-4, 9: 1-8, Mark 1:4-2:13, Lk 5:12-26

**The Leper Mt 8:1-4, Lk 5:12-15**

The stigma of leprosy

Leprosy has terrified humanity since ancient times and was reported as early as 600 BC in India, China, and Egypt. Hansen's disease is still a major health problem.

Leprosy is discussed quite often in the Bible. While its definition in modern times is different from biblical times, there is no doubt that the definitions overlap.

The term "leprosy" (including leper, lepers, leprosy, leprous) occurs 68 times in the Bible—55 times in the Old Testament (Hebrew = *tsara'ath*) and 13 times in the New Testament (Greek = *lepros, lepra*). In the Old Testament, the instances of leprosy most likely meant a variety of infectious skin diseases, and even mold and mildew on clothing and walls. The precise meaning of the leprosy in both the Old and New Testaments is still in dispute, but it probably includes the modern Hansen's disease (especially in the New Testament) and infectious skin diseases.

The term "Hansen's disease" was not given until 1873, when Gerhard Hansen described the leprosy bacillus (the lay term for the "bacterium"). Only at this point was a precise definition for leprosy made available. Many have thought leprosy to be a disease of the skin. It is better classified, however, as a disease of the nervous system because the leprosy bacterium attacks the nerves.

According to Dr. Brand, the best example in the Bible of a person with Hansen's disease is the man with the withered hand (Mark 3:5; Matthew 12:13; Luke 6:10). He likely suffered from tuberculoid leprosy.

Key thoughts:

"If you are willing, you can make me clean"

"Reaching out His hand, He touched him" (by doing so, in eyes of Law, Jesus immediately unclean)

"Immediately He was healed"

"but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed, as a testimony to them"

See Lev 14, esp v.48-57

**The man with the withered (leprous) hand (Mark 3:1-6; Matthew 12:8-14; Luke 6:6-10)**

Man was in the synagogue—a Jew?

This man had the characteristic "withering," the clenched hand that was due to the bacteria-attacked nerves. They were "drawn" or withered.

Luke 6:7 The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find reason to accuse Him.

The real concern was over Jesus' view of Sabbath, not the leprous man.

Jesus' reason it's allowed to heal on Sabbath: You show mercy to an animal, how much more a human!

Mt 12:12 A man is worth far more than a sheep, so it is lawful to do what is good on the Sabbath

His hand was restored, as good as the other (Mt 12:13)

Grk “sound” or “whole”, well see Mt 15:31, Jn 5:4-15, Jn 7:23

### **Paralytic Mt 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-13, Lk 5:17-26**

Luke 5:17

#### **NASB**

One day He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing.

#### **King James Bible**

“and the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them.”

#### **Holman Christian Standard Bible**

“And the Lord's power to heal was in Him.”

Literal, the power of the Lord was (*present*) to heal them

Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you."...

#### **Jewish view that sin brought on infirmity**

Deuteronomy 28 lists many curses that would come upon the people of Israel because of disobedience. Among them are these: "He will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed" (Deut 28:60, 61).

But perceiving their thoughts, (aware of their reasonings), Jesus said...

**Thread between the 3 miracles:** What does it look like when authority is exercised?

The one with authority brings it to bear on the reality that needs overcoming. That “reality” does not exceed the reach or influence of the authority of the person speaking over it.

#### **Mt 9:5-7**

5 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk '? 6"But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins "-- then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." 7And he got up and went home....

Sin is not a reality that has a place higher than Jesus' authority. Neither is paralysis. One is visible, the other invisible. Jesus in effect says “you'll have to trust me on the invisible change because of what you see me do on the visible need.”

The reason people brought the lame and blind to Jesus is they recognized He had authority, and they wanted it exercised over their problem!

**Mk 1 21** They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and *began* to teach. **22** They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes. **23** Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, **24** saying, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” **25** And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” **26** Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. **27** They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”

**Mt 7:28** When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; **29** for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

Be reminded, Jesus says he gave His followers authority over certain things. See notes on “Authority in Prayer”

To listen to this teaching, and view or download teaching outline, and notes on our Authority in Prayer, go to <http://fellowshipdalton.com/resources/>, or our Youtube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfFWPxoCJMWe2IRXrRpkaRg>

On Jewish view that sin brought on infirmity

[http://www.bible-history.com/links.php?cat=39&sub=409&cat\\_name=Manners+%26+Customs&subcat\\_name=Sickness](http://www.bible-history.com/links.php?cat=39&sub=409&cat_name=Manners+%26+Customs&subcat_name=Sickness)

## Our Authority in Prayer

In Tim's story, who held the authority in the workplace? The boss  
Who held the authority in the family? The father who gave both of these their authority? God  
the Father Rom 13:1 no authority except from God

1. God the Father gave Jesus authority over the enemy, and over all flesh, as the result of his sinless life and future atonement

Eph 1:20-21 He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named

John 17:2 Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son, that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

Col 2:13-15 <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses. <sup>14</sup> He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them by it.

Mt 28:18 Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." <sup>19</sup> Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...

He did not say "all truth has been given to me," or "all gospel has been given to me," but all authority. He knew that going out in His name meant we would need authority over the enemy to see the kingdom multiply.

2. In sending out His disciples, He gave them, and by extension, us authority over the enemy

"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick."(Luke 9:1-2)

Look, I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing will ever harm you. Lk 10:17-19

“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” (Matt. 10:1)

“And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.” (Matt. 10:7-8)

### 3. He gave us the authority to ask from the Father in His name

John 16:23-27 In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.<sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

<sup>25</sup> “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.

### Slide-Authority Exercised

#### 4. In all situations we must know our authority, and exercising it does not always require prayer

Acts 3:1-10

Now Peter and John were going up together to the temple complex at the hour of prayer at three in the afternoon.<sup>2</sup> And a man who was lame from birth was carried there and placed every day at the temple gate called Beautiful, so he could beg from those entering the temple complex.<sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple complex, he asked for help.<sup>4</sup> Peter, along with John, looked at him intently and said, “Look at us.”<sup>5</sup> So he turned to them, expecting to get something from them.<sup>6</sup> But Peter said, “I don’t have silver or gold, but what I have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!”<sup>7</sup> Then, taking him by the right hand he raised him up, and at once his feet and ankles became strong.<sup>8</sup> So he jumped up, stood, and started to walk, and he entered the temple complex with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.<sup>9</sup> All the people saw him walking and praising God,<sup>10</sup> and they recognized that he was the one who used to sit and beg at the Beautiful Gate of the temple complex. So they were filled with awe and astonishment at what had happened to him.

Slide-When you have it, give it!                      they did not even pray!

Jesus said freely you have received, freely give

5. Don't fail to use your authority because of an identity crisis

Don't buy the lie that Jesus wasn't making these promises to you. They are for all who are "in Him."

Rom 8:11 The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us.

Ac 4:13 When they observed the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and recognized that they had been with Jesus.

The key is being with, abiding in, Jesus!

Slide-Remaining Allows for Asking

Jn 15:7 If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.

Summary: know what authority He has given you, and use that authority!

Read Eph 1:3-23            it's all "in Him"

Key v.22 Jesus made head over the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. He fills all (things) in all members of Body.