

Jesus' Healing of a _____ (Matthew 8:1-4)

Matthew 8:3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing" he said. "Be clean!"
Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.

As we observe the heart of Jesus here on this earth, He seemed to go out of His way to touch the unclean and allow himself to be touched by the unclean.

As Jesus touched an unclean person, the person he touched always became clean!

Let's Make It _____ Matthew 8:4 / Matthew 5:17

The Healing of the Centurion's _____ (Matthew 8:5-13)

This centurion was a Gentile *officer in the Roman army* and Orthodox Jews would have considered him *unclean because of his race* and despised him as a symbol and a constant reminder of Roman oppression.

Again, Jesus is willing to touch the unclean and heal his son.

The unclean was touched by the clean and became completely clean.

The Healing of Simon Peter's _____ - _____ - _____ (Matthew 8:14-15)

Jesus healed the woman by touching her hand. She had a fever! She was more than likely contagious, unclean.

Other Healings (Matthew 8:16-17)

Jesus' willingness to touch the unclean, even if it made him unclean, was a foreshadowing of what He ultimately came to do.

_____ In Him 2 Corinthians 5:21 / 2 Corinthians 5:17

Instead of Jesus rejecting the *unclean*, the *unworthy*, the *outcast* of the religious world, He chose to show them the *perfection that God desires by making them clean*.

A Heart Like His 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

As Christians, we don't have to deal with religiously binding cleanliness laws. But we still have to *deal with human brokenness*. Brokenness that causes people to feel separate from God.

We have to be willing to touch the unclean as well, in an attempt to connect them to the cleansing power of Jesus.

The question is, "Are we as willing as Jesus was to touch the unclean?"

Or the ones we consider unclean, be we right or wrong. Taking the love of Jesus to an unclean world can get messy. We will have to touch people with *spiritual leprosy*. We will have to touch those who have been *rejected due to race, nationality, or the government they represent*.

We will have to touch those who *have fever* and are *carriers of things that we don't desire*.

We will have to touch those who are *demon-possessed, sick, and diseased*.

Next Step: This week I will honestly answer these questions.

1. **What unclean things or people groups do I hesitate to touch?**
2. **What unclean things or people groups do I deal with, but I really despise having to?**
3. **What unclean thing or person is totally out of the question for me to touch?**

There is no greater joy and no greater victory than to see an unclean person become clean. Introducing them to Jesus who loves the unclean so much that He would touch them and make them clean.

Life App Group and Family Devotional Application

1. Why was it unlawful for Jesus to touch a person with leprosy?
2. Why did Jesus tell the healed man not to tell anyone until he reported to the priest first?
3. The Gentile Roman officer was considered unclean because of his race, nationality, and for oppressing the Jewish people. Be we right or be we wrong, what types of people, people groups, nationalities, political groups, different social and economic groups, and situations do we consider unclean and hesitate to touch or help them?
4. If our perceptions of unclean are wrong? How do we change those perceptions?
5. If someone is living in an obvious unclean matter, how do we love them anyway? What motivates us to touch and help them?
6. List some tangible ways we can touch the unclean and bring them become clean in Christ Jesus?

Answers: Leper / Official / Servant / Mother-in-law / Clean