

## JESUS: OUR ONLY HOPE

(Luke 5:12-26)

Have you ever looked into the eyes of one without hope? If so, you will never extinguish the memory of it from your mind. To see the inner terror of one's soul piercing through their eyes...hopeless.

The story is told of a man who lost his mind because he could not hold onto his friend and coworker who had fallen from the Turnpike bridge. He held onto to his buddy for 15 minutes, looking into his eyes, but he couldn't save him, and he fell to his death. He spent the rest of his years in the state hospital. Hopeless...

Dr. Luke continues his Gospel of certainty showing Jesus' authority to heal the hopeless. For Jesus alone provides us with lasting hope. "All other ground is sinking sand..."

**TWO EXAMPLES OF UTTER HOPELESSNESS REVEALING TO US THAT JESUS IS OUR ONLY HOPE.** This is good news for all as we live in a world that is broken!

### I. The Leper: Jesus Touches This Untouchable And Heals Him.(vv.12-16)

Here we see that those who humbly appeal to Him find GRACE.

- A. While Jesus was teaching, an outcast, a leper came into town and threw himself at His feet.
  - 1. Leprosy in that day was considered "living death." It included all sorts of skin ailments with the most extreme form producing death. (Like AIDS or cancer today)
  - 2. The leper was banished from life. In this miserable and humiliating form of apartheid he would live isolated from family, friends, and his livelihood. This dreaded disease required him to live outside of town and to yell out "unclean, unclean" to any who...
  - 3. Dr. Luke with a physician's eye, tells us that he is "full of leprosy." An advanced form... this man is hopeless. So he calls upon Jesus to make him clean. (v.12)
- B. In the Bible, leprosy also is used as a symbol of our sin. Sin makes us unclean before God.
  - 1. Our depravity "disfigures" and "distorts" the person God created us to be. (Eph 2:5)
  - 2. Paul asked, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Romans 7:24) Left to ourselves, like Paul, we too are hopeless.  
We must recognize our desperate need and ask Jesus to cleanse us. He is able.
- C. Jesus responds by touching him. This is unexpected & completely amazing. No one did this. (13)
  - 1. What compassion! He did need to touch him. He was unclean. But He did. Wow!
  - 2. Instantly, he was healed. Luke wants us to see the power and compassion of Jesus. Jesus is able to touch the hurting places in our lives and make us whole.  
Then He sends us out into the world to touch others who hurt.

