Luke 5:12-14

And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. [13] And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. [14] And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

I. Introduction

A. The TV show, “The Untouchables” (1959-1963) starred Robert Stack as Eliot Ness. Each week these FBI agents would capture or kill gangland leaders.

B. However, in this text we have a different type of untouchable, a person who is an outcast in society.
   1. As African Americans we should be able to understand being an untouchable.

C. In this story, we find a leper who is in need of healing.
   1. Mosaic Law commands a leper to be quarantined.
   2. He approached Jesus with humility by falling on his face.
   3. He approached Jesus with faith by calling Him “Lord”.
      a. He recognized that Jesus had the right to refuse him.
      b. Only God’s grace and mercy moves Him to bless us.
   4. Jesus displays His pity and power by touching and healing this man.

II. Jesus Touched Him As A Physician

A. Leprosy is an incurable disease and the Jews believe only God can cure a person from such a disease.
   1. Leprosy – A skin disease that causes growths on the skin and can cause limbs to fall off.
   2. Matter of fact, the text states he was “full of leprosy” which means he was in the advanced stage of the disease.

B. Jesus is still a physician today healing the incurable of -
   Cancer  Aids  Diabetes  Depression

III. Jesus Touched Him As A Priest

A. Leprosy represent sin, therefore the man needed cleansing not just healing.

B. Jesus being the great High Priest is able to cleanse us from all sin.

C. Jesus still had the man follow the Old Testament command
   1. Show himself to the priest to certify the miracle
   2. Offer the proper sacrifice to God
IV. **Jesus Touched Him As A Person**

A. This man had been separated from family and friends for many years because of the leprosy.
   1. Since leprosy is a slow acting disease it would take many years for it to reach its advance stage.

B. Jewish law required him to stay at least six feet away from other people.
   1. He had to call out “unclean” when he approached others.
   2. He had to wear black garments so that others could see him from afar.
   3. This is what must be done when the unclean enter the presence of the clean.
      (See Isaiah 6:1-5)

C. Imagine not being able to touch your wife, children, mother, father, or friends.
   1. Holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and family reunions would all go by but you cannot attend.
   2. No doubt his family would bring him food and other provisions but he still could not touch them.

D. Therefore he longed to be touched by another person.
   1. This touch by Jesus would heal his emotional wound.
   2. The church does not do a very good job of healing emotional wounds.

E. Jesus was uniquely qualified to touch him.
   1. Jesus is 100% God and 100% man.
   2. Jesus’ deity could heal the physical disease and cleanse him spiritually.
   3. Jesus’ humanity could heal the emotional wounds of not being touched all these years.

V. **Conclusion**

A. When Jesus touches your life, it is changed forever.
   1. He leaves His mark on our life.
   2. Example of leaving a fingerprint.
   3. Therefore, He changes our walk, talk, thinking, and direction.

B. There was a little girl of average looks and intelligence:
   1. Born 1910 in Macedonia to Albanian parents.
   2. Became a nun by age 12 years old.
   3. At age 36 she received a call from God, “to serve among the poorest of the poor.”
   4. She served in the slums of Calcutta, India.
   5. There she ministered to the hungry, naked, homeless, crippled, blind, and lepers.
   6. She touched the unwanted, unloved, and uncared for people.
   7. Her name is Mother Teresa.
   8. God has called us to touch the untouchable

C. **Song: He Touched Me**

   *Shackled by a heavy burden,*
   *Beneath a load of guilt and shame,*
   *Then the hand of Jesus touched me,*
   *Now I am no longer the same,*
   *He touched me, O, He touched me, and O,*
   *the joy that floods my soul,*
   *Something happened and now I know,*
   *He touched me and made me whole.*