

Christ's Compassion | Family Worship Guide

Mark 1:40-45



MAIN IDEA: Although Christ knew that it would hinder sharing the gospel in towns, it did not prevent him from seeing the leper's individual need.

PREPARATION:

Have you ever been in a really large crowd, such as a football game in Tiger Stadium? Did it make you feel really small, like no one could ever notice you? Discuss as a family how we think God views us. Do you think he knows you personally? Or do you think you are lost in the crowd?

EXPLANATION:

A lady once said, "If you want to know how someone views God, listen to how they pray." It's true. How do we address him? Do we speak as son or daughter? Do we speak intimately in our prayer? Do we ask with confidence of the Lord? The leper here shows us two wonderful attributes of the Lord that should profoundly affect how we view him as our Savior. The first is that he sees the need of the individual. Christ's response can be translated as both "moved with indignation" or "moved with compassion." Going with the first translation, it can be speculated that Christ saw not only the pitiful state of the leper and it made him angry, but also because he could foresee that the publicity this healing would bring would hinder his ability to preach the Gospel message in the towns. This is immediately confirmed in that he was unable to enter towns because of his fame directly from this healing. Let us never forget that Christ's mission is people, and he does not overlook us for the "greater good" of mankind. His plan is all inclusive, and it can answer every need we bring to him. He is capable of adequately responding to it all. Secondly, we see that Christ is moved by faith. The leper, either having heard of Christ, or having seen something first hand, came in absolute faith and claimed, "Lord if you are willing, you can make me clean." This is a picture of the faith that we should come to Christ with. Confidence that he will address our need.

Jesus probably knew this leper would not keep his healing quiet, even though he was given a strong warning. Jesus knew it would cause him to be pushed away from society. But, we see in this passage that Jesus came to rescue the hurting outcasts by taking our pain and suffering upon himself. Just like this healed leper, no one should be able to keep us from telling everyone we can about the great love, and mercy, and power of Jesus when we truly come to know Him!

CONVERSATION:

- Lets answer that first question again. How do we perceive God in how he interacts with us individually?
- Did it change at all after studying this passage, if so, how?

APPLICATION:

- Remember that faith pleases God. Hebrews 11:6 further identifies the need for faith, "without faith, it is impossible to please God." Faith moves the mighty hand of God to do and work. The leper was healed because he asked.

- Secondly, remember that God is a personal God. He sees you individually as his creation. You are not lost in the ocean of mankind. Proclaim this to the Lord, preach it to your mind so that it can be real in your heart.

SUPPLICATION:

Father, we thank you that you see us, and that you know us. You have knitted us in the womb, you have created us with great attention to detail, and you love us completely. Grant us faith that we may please you.

EXULTATION:

[Before the Throne of God Above \(lyrics\) - Shane and Shane - YouTube](#)

In college this quickly became our class's favorite hymn, quite simply because of the rich truth of our position in Christ. Read or sing together, and soak in the doctrinal truth in poetic form.

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest, whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look, and see Him there
who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the Risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I am
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ, my Savior and my God
With Christ, my Savior and my God