

14 And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and show thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Lev. 14. 2, 4, 10: This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing....to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, and cedar-wood, and scarlet, and hyssop....and on the eighth day he shall take two he-lambs without blemish, and one ewe-lamb of the first year without blemish, and three tenth-deals of fine flour for a meat-offering, mingled with oil, and one log of oil.

15 But so much the more wert there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.

Matt. 4. 25: People from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan.

16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Matt. 14. 23: When he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

Matt. 28. 18: All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and tiling him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

Luke 19. 2, 3, 4: Zaccheus.... sought to see Jesus....and could

miracle without the outward touch, as he did to other lepers, (Luke 17,) but the means made the miracle more manifest, and in the present instance there was a purpose to be accomplished. "Of all men a leper needed to be touched with the hand of love." **Touched him.** To touch an "unclean" person was to make oneself also unfit to associate with others or to worship God until certain rites of cleansing were fulfilled, according to the Jewish usage. Therefore, by this simple act Christ proclaimed not only his superiority to all ceremonial regulations, but also their unimportance, and their destined abrogation. 4. Mere forms must give way to the greater interests of salvation. **Be thou clean.** A word which carried with it its own authority to every atom of the leper's body, in which blood and bone and nerve leaped to obey the Master's voice. **Departed from him.** The waxy paleness of the skin changes to the glow of health, the decaying flesh regains its health, and the man stands up strong and clean. 5. Such the transformation when God brings salvation to a soul.

14. **Charged him to tell no man.** Because he did not wish to be turned aside from the purely spiritual work of his ministry to give his whole time to the healing of diseases. Miracles were the token of his divine authority, and not the purpose of his coming. 6. Souls are of greater importance than bodies, and salvation than healing. **Show thyself to the priest.** That the case might be fully tested, and the reality of the cure made certain. See Lev. 14. **Offer for thy cleansing.** The ceremonies of the purification of one healed from the leprosy occupied eight days, and included several sacrifices. **For a testimony unto them.** The healing of one so full of leprosy would be a manifest proof that Jesus was possessed of divine power.

15, 16. **So much the more.** Instead of obeying the command to silence, the cleansed leper began to publish the matter everywhere. Mark 1. 45. His disobedience was wrong, yet somewhat excusable, in view of the wonderful work wrought, but the results followed which Christ had desired to avoid. 7. Those for whom Christ has wrought wonders find it hard to keep silence concerning him. 8. No man is now forbidden, but rather encouraged to tell what Christ has done for his soul. **Multitudes came together.** 9. The testimony of personal experience ever attracts the interest of people. **To hear and to be healed.** Christ's aim was not to draw crowds, but to influence character; and in such excited multitudes, where many were led by curiosity, and many by desire for physical healing, there was not the suitable spiritual condition for his teaching. Besides, there was danger lest his mission might be misunderstood, and his followers embroiled with the Roman government; therefore **he withdrew himself.** 10. Every life needs seasons of retirement, meditation, and prayer. **Prayed.** All communion with God is true prayer, and Christ realized the need of this, as well as do his followers.

17. **On a certain day.** The precise time is not specified, but it was probably soon after the healing of the leper. The place is supposed to have been Capernaum. **Pharisees.** A class of Jewish separatists who prided themselves on their minute fulfilment of the law and all the additional rules devised by the rabbins. **Doctors of the law.** Teachers; these were to be found in all parts of the land, though they were most numerous in Jerusalem. Their work was to expound all the minute distinctions and duties of the law, which wove itself into every detail of life. **Sitting by.** Christ was teaching at this time, not in the synagogue, but a private house **Which were come.** Evidently they were present, not to receive instruction, but to watch and criticise, as already there were signs of hostility between Christ and their party, though no, as yet, open rupture. 11. Not all who listen to the Gospel are its friends. The