

Date: 23rd September 2012
Reading: Matt.8:1-4;9:1-8
Subject: The Power of Christ
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The Lord performed a series of miracles which demonstrate His power to cleanse, forgive and heal. He even stilled the waves and the sea and delivered from Satan's power and death.

In these verses, we read of cleansing a leper and healing a paralysed man.

1. Leprosy is a dreadful disease which led to death in those days. The leper was separated from the rest of the people because they were unclean. It is a picture of sin which makes us unclean in the sight of God. Sin starts as something small and grows until we become slaves to sin. We cannot break its power.

The leper shows us to Whom we need to go. He realised that he was in a helpless condition but he was confident that the Lord Jesus could cleanse him. The same Lord is able to cleanse us from our sins (1 John 1:7).

The leper worshipped and reverenced the Lord. He acknowledged that He is Lord. This is a title of God. Jesus was not a mere man but God manifest in flesh (1 Tim. 3:16). He has the authority of the Lord God. He cannot wipe sin away and allow us to live as we please. We need to turn to Him and confess Him as Lord (Rom. 10:9).

The leper knew that he could not force the Lord to cleanse him. People often think that they can make demands but he knows that he relies on the goodness of the Lord. The Lord answers with the words, "I will". It was a miracle that the Lord did for someone who acknowledged Him. He is still waiting today to cleanse the sinner. We may not be unclean in body but we have an eternal soul. We are not fit for heaven as we are. The only person who can cleanse us is the Lord Jesus Christ. What about your destiny?

He said, "no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6) and "I am the door, by Me if any man enter in he shall be saved" (John 10:9).

Peter said, "Neither is there salvation in any other"(Acts 4:12).

We have to come to the right Person. "He is able to save to the uttermost all who come.." (Heb. 7:25).God knows how we have lived. He has made provision at the cross.

The cleansing was immediate and so we can be certain that the moment we come in repentance and faith, we shall receive the gift of eternal life. It will lead to a change of life. Others will see the work of Christ in us.

2. When the paralysed man was placed in front of the Lord, we would think that his greatest need was to be able to walk. The Lord saw his faith and recognised that his greatest need was to have his sins forgiven. This is true for every one of us. The Lord has the power to forgive each of us. This is because he has paid the price for those sins at the cross. They were all accounted for when He suffered at the hand of God. It does not matter what your past life may be, He is able to forgive. All God wants is that you believe. You must start by realising that you are a sinner. You need to understand how God sees sin and why God has a problem with it. You then need to see the Lord as God sees Him. He looks into the heart and sees what is really there. He sees if there is true faith or simply an outward show. We cannot deceive Him. His power was seen at the cross and in the resurrection. This is the evidence that He has the power to forgive. You need to trust Him.