

Sovereign Grace Church

“Kingdom Power” outline

December 30, 2018

Matthew 8: 1-4

This morning we will rejoin our look at Matthew's Gospel. Jesus has just given us His teaching concerning being His disciple or learning how to live in His Kingdom while still living in this fallen world. We have seen that in order to easily live in His Kingdom our hearts must match our professions. This is our goal as His disciples and our trust is in His power, though our efforts are required in order to manifest our trust.

But is Jesus' power adequate to bring this about? Matthew alternates several discourses that Jesus gives on discipleship with alternating accounts of His miraculous encounters as He went about His life. This morning we will consider an account of Jesus healing a leper and cleansing him from both the disease and his standing in society. This account will bear direct application to our own lives as we contemplate the power at our disposal as His disciples in this world.

1. Leprosy and the laws concerning Purity

- **Purposes of the Mosaic Purity Laws**

- **Why separation from the pagan's?**
Lev. 10:3; Deut 4:6

- **Leprosy**
Lev 13:45-46

2. Purity laws and Christ's Kingdom Jer. 31:33; II Cor. 3:6

- **Why no need for “purity laws” in the New Covenant?**
Heb. 10:1; I Pet 2: 9-10; Matt. 28:19

**3. A Miracle of Healing and breaking Barriers vv. 1-4
I Jn 4:4; Lev 5:3**

Concluding Thoughts Jn 13: 34-35

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. If the Bible does not itself divide the law into categories of moral, ceremonial, and civil is it proper for us to do so? What are the options here? Is it possible to recognize that some of the law changes without recognizing different divisions in the law? How so?**
- 2. Was it possible for a leper to be saved under the Old Covenant? How? How might an unbelieving leper have acted?**
- 3. Do you believe God still heals today? Have you ever been involved in someone's miraculous healing? Have you ever been healed miraculously yourself? What was your response? How is it that Jesus healed some people but not others? If God is able to heal everyone, why do you think He only heals some?**
- 4. Are you afraid to interact with a certain kind of person? Are there good reasons for this? If not, why not? How can one not be afraid to minister to threatening people without being overly assuming? Was Daniel afraid of the lions? Why not? What is the difference between Daniel not fearing to spend an evening in the fellowship of lions and one of us not being afraid to jump into the tigers cage at the zoo? Why does the former seem justifiable while the latter seems a bit less so?!**