**Date:** March 15, 2026
**Series:** The Gospel According to Mark
**Title:** "Christ's Compassionate Touch & Gracious Exchange"
**Text:** Mark 1:40-45

HARBOUR SHORES CHURCH

## Introduction:

A leper wasn't just a person with a medical condition; he was a person with a social and spiritual death sentence.

### I. The leper demonstrates a boldness of desperate faith in the only One who can heal & cleanse. *(Mark 1:40)*

- The leper breaks the Law of exclusion because his desperation and faith outweighed his fear of rejection. *(Numbers 5:2-3)*

- Whether leper or sinner, in faith we bring nothing and seek everything the Savior can give. *(Matthew 7:11)*

### II. Jesus' healing touch was born of compassion and accomplished what only the Messiah could do. *(Mark 1:41-42)*

- Jesus doesn't just pity the leper; he feels the man's isolation in his own bones. *(Mark 6:34, 8:2)*

- When the Holy One touches the leper, the uncleanness doesn't spread to Jesus; purity spreads to the leper. *(1 Corinthians 6:11)*

*"God does not heal every illness immediately, because He uses suffering to magnify His glory, deepen our reliance on His grace, and sanctify believers."*

### III. Jesus' call for silence was given that the authorities would unwittingly validate His identity. *(Mark 1:43-44)*

- Jesus wanted the priests to realize: The Messiah is here and I am He. (Matthew 11:4-5)

**IV. The leper's disobedience ironically led to a gracious exchange.** *(Mark 1:45)*

- The leper, who was 'outside,' is now 'inside' the city. Jesus, who was 'inside,' was forced 'outside' in the wilderness."

- Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify us through his own blood. (Hebrews 13:11–13; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

**Conclusion**

- The compassionate Christ calls each of us to a desperate, active faith.
- The righteousness of Christ purifies us from sin's death sentence.

***"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."***
*(Psalm 34:18)*

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## Discussion & Application Questions

- After all the healing recorded in Mark 1:29-34, why would Mark highlight Jesus' healing the leper in vs. 40-45?
- Has your sin made you desperate? What does bold faith look like when dealing with the deadly sin in our lives?
- How can we biblically encourage each other when God doesn't heal our "leprosy"?
- How does the truth that "Jesus' righteousness is more contagious than our brokenness" give you confidence to bring your "hidden" sins or "unclean" areas to Him?
- How did the man's *disobedience*, though born of excitement, actually hinder Jesus' ministry. Can good intentions ever be a substitute for exact obedience in our lives?
- In what way does Christ's physical exchange with the leper help you better understand the spiritual exchange that happened at the Cross *(2 Corinthians 5:21)*?