



Read the passage carefully, from the point of view of the man. How does the disease make you feel? Why tell everyone about what had happened, especially when Jesus had ‘sternly’ said not to tell anyone?

Read the passage again from the point of view of Jesus. How does it feel to have someone kneel before you and beg for help? Do you think that Jesus was *always* filled with pity when people came to him?

Finally read the passage one last time and think about how this encounter fits into the whole ministry of Jesus which we learn about from the gospel writers. Did Jesus heal everyone who asked? What else did Jesus do?

Bible Passage - from Mark 1: verses 40-45

A man suffering from a dreaded skin disease came to Jesus, knelt down, and begged him for help.

“If you want to,” he said, “you can make me clean.”

Jesus was filled with pity, and stretched out his hand and touched him.

“I do want to,” he answered. “Be clean!”

At once the disease left the man, and he was clean.

Then Jesus spoke sternly to him and sent him away at once, after saying to him, “Listen, don’t tell anyone about this. But go straight to the priest and let him examine you; then in order to prove to everyone that you are cured, offer the sacrifice that Moses ordered.”

But the man went away and began to spread the news everywhere. Indeed, he talked so much that Jesus could not go into a town publicly. Instead, he stayed out in lonely places, and people came to him from everywhere.

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Further thoughts:

What *were* the Laws of Moses which related to this incident?

Why did Jesus tell the man to go straight to the priest to be examined?

Did he go to the priest or did he disobey Jesus in this as well?

How do these laws relate to the lives we live today?

Can people be healed like this today?