

PASTOR'S NOTES

The King's Touch

Mark 1:40-45

The Desperate Condition of the Leper

According to Luke's account, the leper was a man full of disease, which tells us that there would be no wondering about his condition. His physical condition was devastating, and yet the physical effects of the disease were only part of his suffering. For a Jewish man, leprosy also made him ceremonially unclean.

See Leviticus 13:45-46

Imagine living that way. Everywhere you went, you carried not only the disease but the stigma of being unclean. When people came near, you were the one who had to warn them: "Unclean! Unclean!"

This man is the epitome of helplessness, unable to change any of his dreadful circumstances or life. Making matters worse, there was no cure he could pursue with any reasonable expectation that he would ever be well.

This man was living with a disease he could not cure and in a state of uncleanness he could not remove.

There is something else about this man that we should not miss. He knew how desperate his condition was. Every time he had to acknowledge, "Unclean," he was reminded of it.

The physical condition of leprosy vividly portrays the spiritual condition of all sinners. What leprosy had done visibly to his body gives us a picture of what sin has done spiritually to every one of us.

The difference is that the leper knew his condition was desperate. Sinners don't often recognize just how desperate their condition is. The Bible's diagnosis of every person is far more conclusive and serious. Apart from Christ, we are *dead in the trespasses and sins* (Ephesians 2:1). Therefore, we must be made alive in Christ.

The Remarkable Faith of the Leper

Somehow the leprous man had heard about Jesus. It awakened hope in a man who had very little reason left to hope. So, he came to Jesus.

"If you will, you can make me clean." (v. 40)

The leper understood something that every sinner must come to understand. He understands how bad his condition is, and he knows that Jesus Christ is his only hope.

The Compassionate Heart of the King

The leper is concerned whether Jesus is willing to use his power for someone like him. *Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him.* (Mark 1:41)

Jesus alone was the focus and source of the leper's hope. And the heart of the King went out to him. He had compassion on him. Jesus wasn't put off by this man, and he is not put off by you. Instead, he is moved with compassion. He is the King who came with love and compassion to call us out of sin, save us from it, and cleanse us of it.

And then Jesus does something that must have shocked everyone who witnessed it. He stretched out his hand and touched the leper, which he didn't have to do to heal him.

Something remarkable happens when Jesus touches the leper. Ordinarily, touching what was unclean made a person unclean. But when Jesus touches this man, the direction is reversed. The leper's uncleanness does not make Jesus unclean. The holiness and cleansing power of Jesus overcome the man's uncleanness. That is our King!

Jesus then commands: "Be clean." Jesus is full of compassion in his heart, tender in his touch, and authoritative in his word. And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. (Mark 1:42). The man was transformed by the word of Jesus.

Think of the magnitude of change in this man's life. He had been identified by one word that he heralded before every place he traveled: "Unclean, unclean!" Yet, now Jesus identifies him with a new word: "Clean."

The Cleansing Power of the King

This is where the miracle becomes such a wonderful picture of the gospel. Jesus has the same compassionate heart toward sinners. God *desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* (1 Timothy 2:4) *Peter says that he is patient, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.* (2 Peter 3:9)

We should not think that Jesus is reluctant to receive sinners who come to him. His compassion is for sinners, and it moved him to act.

The Son of God came to us. He entered our world. He took on flesh. He lived among sinners. And ultimately, he went to the cross to accomplish the cleansing that sinners could never accomplish for themselves.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Clearly, Jesus does not merely feel compassion for sinners like you and me. He saves sinners like us.



MeadowBrook
CHURCH

Sunday, September 13, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



✧ *But God,* ✧
being rich in mercy,
because of the great love
with which he loved us,
even when we were dead in our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—
by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5 ESV



The Well
at Brunson Farms
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
from 2:00 until 6:30 in the evening
BRUNSON FARMS
{6505 Steele Station Road • Rainbow City, AL}

The afternoon will include worship, a grazing table, and breakout groups designed to encourage and equip ladies of all ages, sixth grade and up, with practical tools to grow in and live out their faith.

Register on the App or mbchurch.com
COST: \$25

NEXT STEPS
TAKE THE NEXT STEP AT MEADOWBROOK

NEXT STEPS LUNCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 | 11:45 AM | CONFERENCE CENTER

This lunch is for anyone who has been attending and prayerfully considering membership at MeadowBrook. We'll walk through our doctrine, beliefs, structure and answer any questions you may have. (Pre-requisite for membership)

Register on the App or mbchurch.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
4:00 pm - Global Missions Cohort - Round Room
6:30 pm - The Collective (Young Adults) - Kids' Theater

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
4:30 pm - Men's Bible Study - Conference Center

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Abundant Life Choir singing at Cherry Creek Village
9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Field Peas, Coleslaw, Mexican Cornbread & Dessert or Salad with a Protein;
Kids: Pizza & Chips)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Wednesday Breakouts, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

Sept 13- Nehemiah 1	Sept 17 - Nehemiah 3:20-32
Sept 14 - Nehemiah 2:1-10	Sept 18 - Nehemiah 4:1-14
Sept 15 - Nehemiah 2:11-20	Sept 19 - Nehemiah 4:15-23
Sept 16 - Nehemiah 3:1-19	

life group
Life together for the Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE** gift!



WEDNESDAY BREAKOUTS
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

It's not too late to join us for our 2026 Fall Wednesday Breakouts. For a listing of our classes, visit: mbchurch.com

55+ SUNDAY LUNCH
with JOHN BRADY, IMB VP for GLOBAL AFFAIRS
OCT 11 | 11:35 AM | GYM
COST: \$10


 **INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**


This Sunday lunch gathering offers a meaningful opportunity to enjoy a meal together while hearing firsthand how God is at work around the world through global missions. Dr. John Brady, Vice President for Global Affairs at the IMB, will share timely insights, stories from the field, and encouragement to strengthen our vision for the Great Commission and inspire faithful engagement in God's mission. **Cost: \$10 / Register on the MB App or at mbchurch.com**

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Janye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, David Hindsman

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Ivan Fike

- Nancy Wilson - recovering from surgery
- Verlene Cobb - recovering from surgery
- Brayden Mayhall, son of Christy Maddox - UAB