

“Ministering with Compassion & Authority”

January 20, 2019

CORE: Jesus gives us a clear model of ministry:

- He **WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION**
- He **MINISTERED WITH AUTHORITY**

Clearly demonstrated in the following passage: Mark 1:40ff

1. Jesus healing a man covered with LEPROSY

- **Physical effects**- Open sores, hair loss, internal organs affected (i.e., most noticeable were the vocal cords), deformed hands. Final stages included- loss of muscles, difficulty walking, loss of feeling in hands/feet.
- **Social effects**- Loss of friends, family, dignity, job/income. **“Lived alone outside the camp” (Lev. 13:44)**
- **Levitical law**- Set the goal of seeing lepers **“cleansed & healed” (Lev. 14:1)**. Before the physical evidence of leprosy was obvious, they were to have **“torn cloths & disheveled hair” (14:3)**. Dressed like a mourner—“I am dead w/o God’s intervention”—an appeal for others to pray in faith for their healing! (**“He sent out His word and healed them; rescuing them from the grave” Psalm 107:20**).
- **Rabbinical laws (in Jesus’ day) turned God’s word (intended to heal) into a faithless, condemning pronouncement on lepers**- Religious spirit always removes hope.

Jesus’ ministry:

- **“Filled with compassion”- Lit.- “intestines being wrenched”**; combination of love & anger when seeing injustice; **more than a “warm feeling”—a holy rage that rises from love!**
- **Moved with authority, as He “stretched out His hand and touched him”** NOTE: He spoke to and touched a leper—strictly forbidden by religious law. In the NT—**clean overcomes unclean!**

2. There are two very clear OBJECTIVES in Jesus’ healing ministry:

#1- An all-out attack on the evil one—in order to liberate us from his destructive schemes!

- **“For this reason, the Son of God appeared—to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)**

- ***“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Colossians 2:15) (Lit.- “He stripped him of his power and publicly shamed him!”)***

#2- A full-orbed restoration of all that was lost through Adam’s revolt!

- ***“Jesus left His heavenly home and came to redeem us from Satan’s tyranny. Jesus did not grasp at equality with God—as Lucifer had—but let it go. He stripped Himself of position, power and glory, and came to earth to buy us back!” (paraphrase of Philippians 2:7-11)***

3. Jesus passed on this COMPASSIONATE, AUTHORITATIVE HEALING MINISTRY TO US!

To His disciples, He said:

“Go and forgive people’s debts, and they will be forgiven. I will restore them to My presence, and they will become vibrantly alive, new creations! So, announce the Jubilee—the restoration of all that was lost or stolen—and they will experience it! Announce My Kingdom, and they will enter it!” (paraphrase of John 20:21-23)

He also said:

“ALL authority in the heavens and on the earth has been given to Me. Therefore, you go in that authority and liberate people in all nations! Plunge them into the reality of this living relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Invite them to experience us, uniting with us in our covenant Love. Teach them to live this new life with us on earth. I will be with you by My Spirit, to the end of the age!” (paraphrase of Matthew 28:18-20)