

Worship

This term we are thinking about hope. As you read this story, pay attention to what Jesus says and does when he heals the man with leprosy.

There were many diseases in the ancient world without cures yet. Leprosy was a disease that caused someone's skin to break out in large bumps. It was very contagious, so anyone with leprosy was sent away from the communities to live in isolation.

Jesus came down from a mountain after teaching the crowds of people that followed him. Then a man with leprosy came forward. Jesus' disciples and those around him were anxious. They were afraid of getting sick, too.

The leper said, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean."

Jesus felt pity for the leper. He reached out his hand to touch him and said, "I do choose. Be made clean!"

Immediately, the man's skin changed and he was healed. The leprosy was gone!

Jesus told the man to go and show himself to a priest for inspection so that he would be allowed back into the community.

He also warned him not to say anything to anyone, but the man couldn't keep the story of this miracle to himself. He told everyone about the miracle. People started to come from all over to seek out Jesus to be healed, as well.

Reflection

What did Jesus do to make the leper feel loved while everyone else was afraid of getting sick?

Who do you know that needs prayers for Jesus' healing touch?

What are some miracles or other stories you can share with people about Jesus?

Prayer

Dear God, Help us to share the Hope of our hearts with one another

Enable us to give Hope to others through Your work amongst us

Use us to transform our nation and to spread Your Hope to every corner of this nation.

Amen