



KEN-NA Outreach Ministries ☆

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The Healing of the Man with Leprosy (Ken Walston – Kenna Outreach Ministries)

I don't think a lot of people understood the significance of **Luke 5:12-14**:

This verse of scripture is overlooked in its importance as to the beginning Ministry of Jesus. This miracle was performed at the beginning of His Ministry on Earth right after He began assembling his disciples together. It is important to note that this disease (leprosy) was considered under the Law of Moses as being a divine judgement against an individual (Leviticus 13:1-46). In all the history of Israel, up until the moment of this miracle, no one had ever been cured of leprosy. The significance of this man that Jesus was about to heal, is that his leprosy was (all through him), meaning that the bacterial disease had gone throughout every organ of his body and he was near death. When he came to Jesus, it was his last effort and desperate attempt in humility when he said " **Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.**" The next thing that Jesus said is the most significant, "*I am willing; be cleansed.*" And then he touched the man and immediately the leprosy left him. So, why is this so significant, this miracle?

1. The Levitical Priesthood had been exercising this Law (Leviticus 13) since the time it was given by Moses. It was understood that this particular disease was so defiled that it was a divine judgement from God and incurable by human means, thus viewed as a passage of judgement by God.
2. Any individual that had been declared unclean by the Priest under The Law according to Leviticus 13 was a complete and utter outcast and considered no longer a part of the community of Israel. This meant that they were not to approach or come near anyone for the rest of their life. The Law also stated that no one in Israel was to touch a Leper or they would become defiled and unclean themselves.
3. This event in Luke 5 was to fulfill a single purpose, which was to identify The Messiah in fulfillment of Isaiah 35:6. Not only did the Leper disregard The Law by approaching Jesus, but Jesus as an Israelite also disregarded The Law by touching him. Had Jesus not cured this man, his identity would have not been revealed.
4. After the healing, Jesus sternly directed the man "*But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded.*" The significance of this was to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 35:6. This would be the first time that the Levitical Priesthood would have to impose The Law according to Leviticus 14, so they were utterly stunned when this man approached them to fulfill this Law. It meant 2 things to them; 1: a miracle had been given which had never occurred before and 2: the possibility of Messiah being on the Earth was now evident.
5. The following verse of scripture in Luke 5:17 is typically overlooked by the Christian reader as a mere passage of information with no significant value. Luke 5:17 says: Now it happened on a certain day, as He "(Jesus) was teaching, that there were Pharisees and Teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of **every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem**, and the power of the Lord was **present to heal them.**" The significance of this verse of scripture can be

overlooked because of the way the English translation is written by chapter & verse number. The original Greek text is not written in this manner. There are no spaces or verses, just continuous thought in the writing. So, this indicates a continuous commentary from the previous verse regarding the healing of the man and the day when Jesus was teaching. The question which should be asked in the mind of the reader is why would Pharisees and Teachers of The Law come to where Jesus was in Galilee from every town in Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem? This means there were hundreds of these people showing up in this small town where Jesus was teaching and healing. The answer refers back to Leviticus 14 having to be imposed for the first time. They were there to witness The Messiah coming to Earth. The significance of this is in Luke 5:17 when it says "**And the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them.**"

6. The witnessing of Jesus healing an individual of something that could not be done by human means showed the Divine intervention of God which could only be performed by God, firstly in the forgiveness of sin and then the reversal of the Divine Judgement against the individual.

7. This act of forgiveness and healing together would sanctify the next miracle in Luke 5:18-26, where Jesus healed a lame man by first forgiving his sins and then commanding him to get up and walk. The Teachers of The Law and Pharisees began to rebuke Him and claimed blasphemy because only God could forgive sins. By showing His divine personage as The Son of Man through the previous miracle, He now rebukes them by saying, "Which is easier to say, your sins are forgiven you or get up and walk?". Immediately the man rose to his feet, took his bed he was laying on and went home praising God.

This clearly showed that the Messiah was now on the earth and that He was in the form of a human man and that this man was Jesus of Nazareth, whom many had already set out as being the Messiah; but this also posed a great threat to the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees because this would take away their focus of authority from the people and move it to this man who now was being called, "The Son of God", no one less than, the Messiah.