

THE LEPER

MATTHEW 8

Text:

Introduction:

There are times when all of us like to be alone. In fact we need these occasional times to spend with the Lord and allowing Him to fellowship with us.

But there is a difference between being alone and being lonely.

Loneliness suggests isolation, whether self imposed or caused by others. In this story we see a man who was plagued by loneliness, not because of a bad personality, but because of a dreaded illness, the disease of leprosy.

Note:

1. CONTRAST

Matthew 8:1

¹When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

In the three preceding chapters the Lord delivered the Sermon on the Mount. He had just come down from the mountain side where the people had listened as He taught His disciples many important principles.

Large crowd followed Him. Never had they heard one speak like Jesus. There was power in His words.

But now in this story it's not a crowd, but an individual.

2. CONFRONTATION

Matthew 8:2

² And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Leprosy was a death sentence at this time. When an individual contracted this disease, they had no hope of cure. They were placed in a colony and waited to die.

Leviticus 13 & 14 tells us about the law concerning lepers.

3. CONTRAST

Matthew 8:3

³ And Jesus put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.