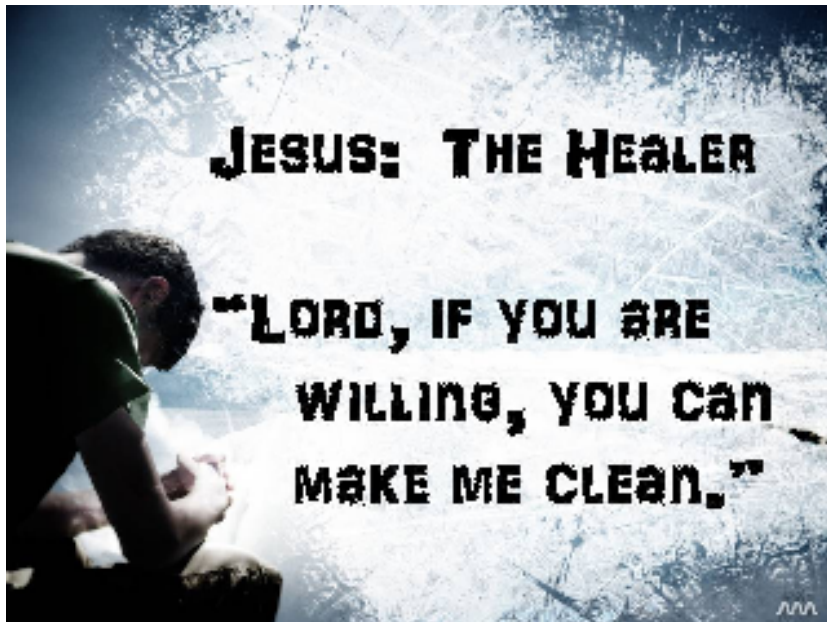


## Praying the Leper's Prayer Luke 5:12-16

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### **Praying the Leper's Prayer (Luke 5:12-16)**

- 1. Leprosy was a disease of extreme isolation, radical exclusion and absolutely no touch.**
  - Jesus touched the untouchable
  - Jesus communicated in the most dramatic way possible a message of inclusion
  - Touch is powerful



- 2. Dealing with the labels (Unclean! Unclean!)**
  - The church is called to be the hands of Jesus for a world that desperately needs to be touched.
  - There was more than physical healing going on as Jesus touched and cleansed the leper.
  - We can't remove our own labels. We need the body of Christ to help us.
- 3. Praying our own version of the leper's prayer: "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." (you can heal me, remove my label)**
  - We need to personally pray that prayer.
  - We need to be the healing hands of Jesus.

## **Community of Healers (Luke 5:17-26)**

### **1. Obstacles to healing.**

- **Personal weakness**
- **The crowds that literally blocked the door**
- **The religious skeptics/gatekeepers**

### **2. The faith, perseverance, boldness and creativity of the friends.**

- **Do whatever it takes to get to Jesus**
- **The community of faith**
- **The community of healers (Eph. 4:16)**

### **3. There is more than physical healing at work.**

- **Jesus goes after the deeper issue of forgiveness of sins**
- **Jesus separates the sin/sickness issue**
- **Jesus challenges the beliefs of the day**

### **4. The hard realities about sickness & healing:**

- **No formulas – every healing story is different**
  - **Jesus never blames the person in need of healing**
  - **Jesus isn't asking (or answering) the 'why' question**
  - **There always seems to be something deeper/more profound going on – physical healing isn't the ultimate goal**
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### **5. Jesus is making the outrageous claim to be God in the flesh.**

- **Forgiving sins is a clear claim to Divinity**
- **Jesus proves his claim through physical healing**

**Jesus is willing *and* able to heal *and* consistently goes after something more important than physical healing. I don't know why you are not healed.**

### **Things to Think About:**

- **What's more important – the forgiveness of sins or the ability to walk?**
  - **What's more important – nice healthy skin or inclusion in the Kingdom of God?**
  - **How will you practice radical touch and radical inclusion and radical re-labeling?**
  - **Are you in need of healing? Are you in need of having a label removed? Follow the example of the leper - in faith and in boldness come to Jesus and pray the leper's prayer.**
  - **We are called to be a community of healers for those who can't get to Jesus on their own. Is there someone you know who needs your help?**
  - **Sometimes we need a community of healers to help us. Would you let us be that community for you?**
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