

Episode 6

Indescribable Compassion

“You are forbidden within four cubits.”

“Cover your mouth. Don’t breathe his air!”

The early Israelites believed illness was the punishment for sin and the particular heinous set of syndromes the Bible talks about referred to “tzaraat” in Hebrew. Through the ages it’s been translated as leprosy. Leprosy, then, was both a punishment for a sin and divine curse because it was a chronic and incurable disease until our times. Because it was incurable the lepers were made to live outside of town away from everyone. You could not be part of society any longer.

In the Bible one can find numerous examples of the punishments for sins.

Miriam was made leprous “as white as snow” by order of the Lord, because she criticized Moses, her father.

How were leprosy protocols in AD 27 like Covid protocols in AD 2020?

Why did Jesus tell the leper not to say anything except present himself to the priest and yet the Bible reports the leper went into town and told everyone?

Returning to town from Jesus’ camp, why do you think Simon and Andrew suddenly resumed being hostile toward Matthew?

What needs to change in Simon’s reactions to future possible confrontations or resistance in his life?

How did Shmuel reveal his legalism and superiority?

Nicodemus invited Shmuel to consider God can speak new things not in Torah.
How does God speak new things to us that aren’t in the Bible?

Nicodemus had been trying to settle whether John the Baptist had exorcised Mary. John said it was the Son of God.

What is Nicodemus wondering after the miracle he saw today?

Why was it more important for Shmuel to have a better view of the miracle healing than Nicodemus?

Matthew told Abigail yes, he is lost. Then in the final frame Jesus stared him down. What’s Matthew wondering?

Name at least one character whose response to Jesus’ miracles was:

- fearful
- alarmed

- Jealous
- Overjoyed • challenged
- indignant • confused • skeptical • hostile
- thankful

What was your response to these miracles?

Closing Prayer

Lord guide our thoughts this week as we too discover this Jesus.