

A Father's Day Message from Jesus – Luke 5:12-16

It's Father's Day & I wonder... if Jesus, when on earth, had written a Father's Day message in a card for His heavenly Father what would it have said?

What would Jesus thank His Heavenly Father for teaching/showing him?

Scripture doesn't declare it, but I believe Jesus would have said something like, "Thank you for teaching me not to be afraid to get my hands dirty!"

God taught & modeled this very well as a heavenly Father! He spoke the world into existence, but He formed man from the dirt of the ground!

God, the Father, got His hands dirty at creation. He also was not afraid to get His hands dirty in the work of salvation! Sin is messy! Like cleaning fish.

Scripture tells us that God is so Holy that He cannot look upon sin, but He still chooses to establish an everlasting covenant with sinners & attach His name with a people who often drag that name through the mud.

Man has plunged himself into ruin, but God in His grace purposed to raise him up out of the grave/mud/filth & cleanse him of all unrighteousness/sin!

God is willing to get His hands dirty & Jesus learned it well!

Jesus wasn't afraid to do what no one else would do, to touch the untouchable, to love the unlovable, to forgive the unforgivable!

In this passage this morning, we see Jesus' willingness to reach out to and touch this diseased, rejected, & despised social outcast!

A person with leprosy was declared unclean! They had to shout it out in public, they had to dwell alone outside the city. They were the outcasts of society, & to touch a man with leprosy was to be declared unclean yourself!

Now, leprosy is not a prominent disease in our day but we do have diseases, addictions, disorders, & sins that lead to the rejection of many in our society

For this man, full of leprosy, he believed that Jesus could help him, but he was unsure if He would! The same is true for many despised & rejected people today.

Many are looking for someone willing to reach out to them in their distress.

In this encounter w/Jesus, we see such a willingness, despite the consequences!

Jesus was willing to get His hands dirty, & be declared ceremonially unclean himself, all so that this broken man might have hope & experience healing!

Jesus could have easily followed suit with the culture and the times He was living in. He could have rebuked him, condemned him to the outskirts of town & been repulsed by him.

But Jesus followed in His Father's footsteps & reached out and touched this man, & instead of the dirt/disease of this man rubbing off on Jesus, Jesus' purity/power rubbed off on him & brought the healing this man needed.

You see, when we are willing to get our hands dirty with people, to reach out and touch them even in their filth, God is in it, and He can bring healing!

It's for this reason that there are ministries in prisons & strip clubs. That there are ministries to felons, alcoholics, drug addicts, sex addicts, etc.

Ministries like Love INC, the food pantry, the personal care pantry, Kids Hope, GFF, etc. They exist because people need to be touched with the healing touch of God, no matter who they are or what they've done.

This is at the very heart of the gospel!

If God is truly a God of grace, if Jesus truly came for the sick/broken/sinner then we too need to be willing to get our hands dirty & reach out & touch the untouchables with the grace, mercy & love of God.

It's interesting that when Jesus healed this man of leprosy, He commanded him to **"go & show himself to the priest, & make an offering for his cleansing."**

Why did Jesus have him do this? Yes, b/c the Law of Moses commanded it, but also **"for a proof to them."** This needed to be publically declared!

The healing of this diseased man was evidence to the power of God at work!

We may not be able to heal diseases by our touch, but we can bring about healing in the lives of those that the world rejects or declares unclean.

If the world needs proof of the validity of our faith, maybe the proof is found in our love for the unlovable & our willingness to get our hands dirty

Do people see Jesus in us? Do we follow in the footsteps of our Father?