



Posted on February 8, 2015
Written by Nathanael Vissia

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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, February 15, 2015

6th Sunday in Epiphany

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 1:40-45](#) [**Summary:** *God's healing love is more contagious than leprosy*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

ASK (a.k.a [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- Have you ever had a cold that made you cough a lot? (yes)
- And when you would cough would people tell you to cover your mouth with your hands or your forearm? (yes)
- Why do people tell you to do that? (because it stops the germs from spreading)
- Why don't we want germs to spread? (because that's how more people get the same sickness)
- So a fancy word that we call a sickness that gets spread around is "contagious"
- Can you say that word with me? "Contagious."
- Sometimes people can be really afraid of catching a contagious disease.
- They might be so afraid that they will not be anywhere near the sick person!

TELL (a.k.a [The Freeway](#))

- In today's scripture story, there's a man with a contagious disease called leprosy.
- And other people were so afraid of catching leprosy that they made this man live all by himself.
- So not only did this man have leprosy, but he was alone, unwanted, and feared.
- With that in mind, it is amazing that he and Jesus can have a conversation at all.
- What that tells us is that Jesus isn't afraid of catching the man's contagious disease.

- But then Jesus does something even more amazing. To heal the man, Jesus touches him and says, "Be made clean."

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- When we think of things that are contagious, we usually think of bad things, like coughs and colds and scary diseases.
- But today's story tells us that there is something even more powerful and contagious than scary diseases -- *God's healing love*.
- Because Jesus was filled with God's healing love, he was not afraid of the man's disease.
- And because Jesus wasn't afraid, Jesus could reach out and share God's healing love with the man.
- And it was contagious. The man "caught" it. And was made well.
- And this is the good news for today: The most powerful, contagious thing in the world is God's healing love.
- The more we follow Jesus and learn how to receive God healing love, the more we'll be able to share this most powerful, contagious thing in the world.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who trusts your contagious love...

...who trusts your contagious love...

...more than he fears contagious diseases.

...more than he fears contagious diseases.

Help us to learn...

Help us to learn...

...how to do the same thing.

...how to do the same thing.

Thank you and amen.