

## ***A Face Of Grace Reaches Out To Those Who Are Untouchable!***

### ***Faces Of Grace, Pt. 5***

Matthew 8:1-4

July 3, 2016

**Matthew 8:1**, *When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed Him. <sup>2</sup>A man with leprosy came and knelt before Him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>3</sup>Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."*

#### **Two Overarching Principles From This Passage:**

1. The universal need for love and grace by all humanity
2. Jesus' example of reaching out to those deemed untouchable by others

#### **Four Thoughts From Jesus' Encounter With The Leper:**

##### **1. Jesus' Attraction And His Circle Of INFLUENCE**

**Matthew 8:1**, *When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed Him.*

##### **2. Jesus Acknowledges An Approaching UNTOUCHABLE**

**Matthew 8:2**, *A man with leprosy came and knelt before Him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."*

**Leviticus 13:45**, *"Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!'" <sup>46</sup>As long as*

*they have the disease they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp."*

##### **3. Jesus ENGAGES The Untouchable**

**Matthew 8:3**, *Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.*

**Matthew 5:46**, *If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?*

##### **4. Jesus INSTRUCTS The Untouchable**

**Matthew 8:4**, *Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."*

#### **Practical Steps For Engaging The Untouchables:**

**Luke 19:10**, *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

**Proverbs 11:30**, *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.*

**Matthew 28:18**, *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

**S - SEE Your Own Past Sins**

**A - ASK God To Prepare Your Heart**

**V - VALUE Others Beyond Yourself**

**E - ENGAGE The Untouchables; Don't Just Talk About It**

**Colossians 4:5**, *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup>Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

**1 Corinthians 9:22**, *To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.*

**Takeaways:**

- Make a list of those in your life who others consider “untouchable,” and look for an opportunity this week to reach out to them with your words or actions.
- Follow the Pastor’s daily blog “[www.johnmarkcaton.com](http://www.johnmarkcaton.com).” You can also follow it on Twitter @johnmarkcaton or on Facebook at /johnmark.caton.
- Celebrate Recovery (CR) - A safe ministry for any hurt, hang-up, and habit with which we all struggle. For more information, <http://www.celebraterecovery.com/>.