



Sunday Follow Up Matthew 8:1-4

This week stop and realize the heart of Christ. Read the passage once again. Use your imagination and notice all that is going on in the narrative. Can you see the crowds? What about the man with leprosy, do you hear him crying out unclean? Can you imagine the risk he was taking? Listen to his simple prayer, “Lord if you are willing you can make me clean.” I believe he was asking for more than simply removing the leprosy, I believe he was asking for his life to be restored.

Notice Jesus listened to what this man said. He didn’t move back, which would have been the norm. He moved forward. Jesus reached out and touched him, again, from our perspective no big thing, from the crowd’s view this was crazy. They would have stood in shocked amazement. Jesus said “I’m willing.” Do you ever miss out on what Jesus has for you simply because you assume He’s not willing? Can you imagine the cleanest of the clean reaching out to the most unclean? Jesus offers hope, love, compassion, mercy and restoration. This man’s life was restored. Restoration is far more wonderful than a simple healing of a skin disease. Hear me, I’m not down grading the healing, but there may be far greater things God longs to do for us.

What would happen this week if you realized our Savior’s willingness to come face to face with us? What if we would simply not hear the words but believe the words—**you are clean!** What if you understood—he listens, notices and will enter into our situations. He’s not afraid nor thrown off by the mess.

He still says *I am willing, be clean!* He still cures and restores lives.

Be Restored,
Pastor Nathan

P.S. Be praying—come out and be a part of Trunk or Treat this Saturday from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Riverside Park. Pray for Greenville—that people will wake up to Jesus! Thank you ahead of time!

Have a blessed day.