

Matthew 8:1-17

The Sermon on the Move

January 20, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro

1. A leper

Unclean Unclean, L. S. Huizenga wrote: *The disease which we today call leprosy generally begins with pain in certain areas of the body. Numbness follows. Soon the skin in such spots loses its original color. It gets to be thick, glossy, and scaly... As the sickness progresses, the thickened spots become dirty sores and ulcers due to poor blood supply. The skin, especially around the eyes and ears, begins to bunch, with deep furrows between the swellings... Fingers drop off or are absorbed; toes are affected similarly. Eyebrows and eyelashes drop out. By this time one can see the person in this pitiable condition is a leper... One can even smell it, for the leper emits a very unpleasant odor. Moreover, in view of the fact that the disease-producing agent frequently attacks the larynx, the leper's voice acquires a grating quality. Not only can you see, feel, and smell the leper, but you can hear his rasping voice.*

Leviticus 13:45-46 -The leper must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!'... They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.

2. The Centurion

Matthew 8:1-17

The Sermon on the Move

January 20, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

3. Peter's mother-in-law.

In first-century Palestine, a woman's social sphere was only as large as her family. Rabbi Bereshit: "It is the way of a woman to stay at home and it is the way of a man to go out into the marketplace."

While literacy was an important element in teaching young men to study the Bible, it was a luxury for women. Because the Old Testament was explicit about teaching Scripture to the "sons," women were excluded from instruction in the Torah.

It wasn't normal for men to speak directly to women. Not only do the gospels show Jesus speaking to women, it depicts Him doing so with an element of tenderness. He doesn't simply heal the woman with the bleeding disorder, He calls her "daughter." When He addresses the woman doubled over from spiritual oppression, He calls her a "daughter of Abraham"--conferring on her a spiritual status equal to her male counterparts.

4. The demon possessed.

God is too wise to make a mistake. God is too kind to do anything cruel. And everything God does comes from a heart of love--whether we understand it or not.

I imagine it this way: Jesus walks into a room and makes a beeline to the outcasts. He chooses to go where love hasn't yet arrived. His ways aren't our ways, but they could be.

Matthew 8:1-17

The Sermon on the Move

January 20, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon
