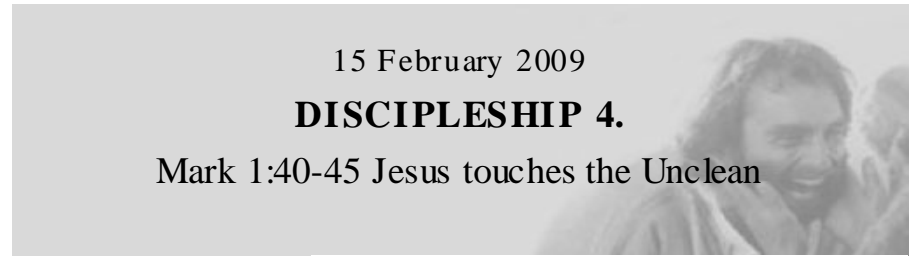


lives and infect them with his eternal life, even the boring bits. So that in our everyday lives we could bring his touch to others, to our community and infect people with live, eternal life. God sharing his life with us, embraced in his love, his mercy, his grace, his hope. Sharing life with God having him touch every part of our dying life and infecting it with health, so that we become infectious with the Jesus virus.

Let us pray.
 Jesus thank you for coming and touching our lives with your healing presence. Fill us with the Holy Spirit so that all the people we come into contact with this week are infected with the Jesus virus. Are touched by you through us and are brought from death to life. Amen.



15 February 2009

DISCIPLESHIP 4.

Mark 1:40-45 Jesus touches the Unclean

At the present time I'm into picking pears, and each morning I go to my shed to see which ones are ripe. I've noticed that some of them go rotten if I don't check and the pears touching also start to go rotten.

That seems to be a pattern in life, what the rotten touches becomes rotten. When someone is sick and coughing it is amazing how that virus can spread. The healthy become infected and so they're coughing, and the virus spreads.

That's why in Jesus day people with leprosy were cut off from the rest of the community. It was the only way they knew how to stop the spread of the disease. To be touched by a leper meant you potentially could

become a leper and would have had to go into isolation to see if you were infected or not before you could resume life back in the community.

The sick infected the healthy.

Jesus does an amazing thing; "He reached out his hand and" ... and did what? Jesus reached out his hand and, "touched the man." (Mk 1:41) What was Jesus thinking?

Jesus should have told this bloke to get lost, to keep his distance; after all he's a leper. He's sick and Jesus is healthy, don't contaminate the healthy, keep your distance.

But Jesus doesn't tell him to get lost, he does the unthinkable. Jesus

actually touches the infected. And what happens. The sick is infected by the healthy. The leper is healed. Wow! Jesus touches the leper and doesn't become a leper, but the leper becomes whole.

Now wouldn't that be a great world to live in, the healthy infecting the sick. So instead of the rotten destroying the healthy, the healthy redeem, restore the rotten, so they are made whole and healthy. Instead of the sick coughing and me feeling miserable a few days later, I'd breathe out health and they'd stop coughing, and leave feeling healthy, vibrant, ready to face the day. Wouldn't that be a great world to live in?

Jesus reaches out and touches the leper, and

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

Edmund 0429041957



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

he is made whole. The healthy infects the sick.	sick in Jesus' name and bring healing. We are called and empowered to bring people from death to life.	live greedy. I respond more to my fears letting them shape what I do and how I spend my money, as if this is my salvation.
Has this got anything to say about being a disciple of Jesus? Has this got anything to say about Jesus' community we call the church?	For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God in Christ Jesus is eternal life. Jesus has touched humanity in his very body and has brought life out of	But the fires in Victoria have shown beyond doubt that money is not my salvation. I still hear this woman lamenting; "I spend 25yrs building this house and now it's all gone." Twenty five years gone in a few horrendous moments, and what was left? Ashes. I
Jesus has reached out and touched us who were dead in sin and has made each of us alive. Paul expresses this in Ephesians; "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ..." (Eph. 2:1,4,5)	In Jesus' kingdom the healthy infect the sick. death. Jesus has touched each of us in the waters of baptism, and has made those who were alien to God his loved children, with whom he is well pleased. In Jesus the healthy touches the sick, infecting them with health. What good news we have to share.	live in a consumer society and am tempted to believe that the answer to life is found in my wallet, in my ability to buy what I need, so that I won't have any worries. But when the fire touched those commodities what was left?
In Jesus' kingdom the healthy infects the sick. Jesus touches us and we are healed, Jesus isn't infected. That's good news.	Though at times I must admit that I live as if it wasn't real. I get angry and resentful. I feel bitter, that life isn't fair. I become envious, and	We turned to people and found greater strength in the love and support of other people. I'm sure Jesus wants to reach out and touch those people who have
As Jesus' disciples, as his community of disciples we are empowered to touch the		

been shaken, so that they don't go back into slavery to things but find real and eternal life in a loving, vibrant relationship with him.	what people had imagined the Messiah to be, so he couldn't be the Messiah. So Jesus was unable to touch many of the Pharisees because he didn't fit their ideals. If all we do it turn Jesus into some sideshow, so faith healing circus does the real Jesus get lost. Does our sickness try and	go and show yourself to the High Priest that you might re-enter life in the community. And then in your everyday life you can share what Jesus has done for you. He went and made a big song and dance, but it didn't help the kingdom grow. Instead Jesus was forced to stay out in the wilderness.
Jesus touch still has the power to heal, to infect lose with hope. To make the sick whole. Jesus touch still has the power to heal my anger and create his loving actions in my life. Jesus' desire is to touch us that we might be healed and become infections, that his healing touch flows through us infecting all the people we meet in daily life, just like a virus.	Jesus came and touched our everyday lives. infect things as we begin to tell Jesus what he has to be like and what he has to do, according to our will. That's the original sin, Adam and Eve wanting to shape God according to their will, and not be shaped according to God's will.	Will the kingdom of God grow in our society if we have a wonderful band each Sunday and really dynamic teachers, plus some miracles for good measure. I'm always tempted to say yes, but Jesus directs this healed leper in a different direction.
Maybe that's why Jesus told this healed leper to be quiet. Maybe Jesus wanted him to quietly in his new everyday life infect people with Jesus, the real Jesus and not our imagination about who Jesus should be.	The leper went and told everyone. He was excited and wanted to tell everyone. But Jesus had given him a different directive. Don't tell anyone, but	Jesus didn't come with a big song and dance, but he came and lived among us. One of us. Jesus came and touched our everyday lives, even those boring bits, so that he could redeem our everyday lives, even the boring bits. So that he could touch our
That was part of Jesus' problem, he didn't fit		