

A Leper In The White House?

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark we read of an encounter Yeshua has with a leper. The leper confronts Yeshua and says, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Yeshua says to the leper "I am willing. Be clean." He reaches out to touch the leper and immediately the man is cleansed (Mark 1:40-42).

Why does the Bible use this type of language in connection with leprosy? The leper who came to Yeshua could have said "If you are willing you can make me well" or "You can heal me." Why does the man say to Yeshua "You can make me clean."? The reason is because leprosy was regarded in the Bible almost as a kind of stain on a person's body making that person 'unclean'. The Bible uses leprosy as a picture of sin in a person's life. Unlike other diseases mentioned in the Bible leprosy wasn't just cured; it had to be cleansed.

Sin is also like a stain in someone's life And the Bible has a lot to say about dealing with sin. In the Book of Isaiah we read "Wash you; make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes." Also in Isaiah the Spirit of G-d says "Come now and let us reason together. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:16, 1:18).

Let me give you a practical illustration of how sin produces a stain by looking at recent events in the history of the United States. You will remember that some years ago President Clinton became involved in an affair with a White House employee - a female intern named Monica Lewinsky. That affair lasted a year and a half before Clinton broke it off. During one of his sexual encounters with Lewinsky Pres. Clinton inadvertently left stains on one of her dresses. After he called off the affair President Clinton probably thought that was the end of it because for months he denied that he and Lewinsky had done anything improper.

Finally Ms. Lewinsky was pressured into coming forward. Not only did she testify about the affair before a grand jury, but she also brought in the soiled dress as evidence. Investigators performed a DNA test on the stain and found that it matched a blood sample taken from President Clinton. The President had no choice but to admit the affair after months of denying it.

Just as things in the natural world can be stained, sin likewise leaves a stain or mark upon our spiritual lives. And not just sexual sins but lying, stealing, drunkenness, murder - all sins, big or small, affect our lives making us 'unclean' before a Holy G-d. So when we stand before G-d to be judged, the devil stands ready to roll out all the sins of our past and to parade them like so much dirty laundry. The devil will accuse us before G-d. And the stains of our sin will be traced right back to us just like those investigators traced the stain on that dress back to Bill Clinton. No one will be able to deny their guilt.

What do we do about this situation? How do we remove these stains caused by sin in our lives? God's Word supplies the answer.

Remember the story I just told about the leper. If we want G-d to deal with the stain of sin on our lives we have to take the attitude of that leper. The leper said "L-rd, if you are willing, you can make me clean" Do you believe that? Hopefully you do. Yeshua is ready to extend His hand today and say "I am willing. Be clean."

You can receive this cleansing today. If you are willing, say the following prayer:

Yeshua Adoneinu, thank you for showing me how much I need you. Please forgive all my failures and the sins of my past. Make me clean and let me start fresh with you. I now receive you into my life as my Savior and L-rd. Thank you for giving your life for me. Help me to serve and live for you. Amen.

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