

## “Reaching Out”

### Matthew 8:1-4

In our world of work and duty we walk past, walk by, people that Jesus died for...

People that are:

- Created by God
- Made in God’s image
- Given life
- Loved by God
- Given Jesus who died for them.

The same people...

Jesus here in Matthew has already spoken with great authority (7:28-29), they were amazed, astonished, dumbfounded. And now, He is our example.

Jesus, the one who spoke with authority, power, as the Son of God and said statements like the following:

- “...you have heard it said” “...but I say...”
- “many will say to me in that day...”
- “...and then I will profess I never knew you...”

He now shows us an example(s) in chapter 8 through 10:

Here is how He (Jesus) deals with [confronts] the world.

Here is everyday living – here is the good and bad of the world!

Note what the King does, here’s how you live it.

- Jesus, God’s Son, shows us by His example:
- “I’m not only going to preach to you a sermon on the mount,
- But I am going to show you:
- Here’s how you do it, here’s how you live it!”
- Here is how you go about everyday life – it’s people!
- As Jesus now goes from place to place...
- People come to Him (leper, centurion, goes to Peter’s house and healed his mother-in-law).
- He gives truth, He helps, He’s loving – all interaction with people!

One of my concerns is: we live in a day when our contact, interaction with people is less and less. Here Jesus’s example is different.

- What can we learn from this passage?
- That we should be reaching out to others.
- And sometimes it is difficult.

We can learn from 3 characters that are in the passage...

### What can we learn from 3 characters in this passage:

#### I. The crowds – multitudes (v.1)

A. Now they just heard the sermon on the mount, - not miracles, shows or entertainment.

Picture them sitting there... “let’s see what he does next...” and then following, watching Him. People are watching you... See, you make a sermon, and it’s more than just what you say!

B. People want to see – they look for consistency.  
How will you handle \_\_\_\_\_, [difficulties, crisis, trials]?

#### II. The leper

A. Came to Christ – amazing!

1. the disease –

2. the way this man was treated: God gave

strict instructions...

B. Came with confidence

C. Came with reverence – he bowed before Jesus

D. Came with humility – not demanding, but...

E. Came with faith – “you can make me clean”

#### III. The Messiah (vs.3-4)

A. Jesus response – the crowd is watching, what will He do?

He could heal with a word, but He touches him.

The word “ ”is more than superficial contact...

B. Christ’s command (v.4) Why? Certain things he had to do with the law and the priest. And told not to tell anyone. Sadly, we learn from Mark 1 that he *does not obey*.

### Conclusion:

- Jesus here is an example and is very concerned about what people are seeing as they watch Him in ministry.
- He reached out to all, even a needy leper.
- Are you reaching out to others?
- Are you more concerned about others than you are about yourself?
- We need each other; we need to reach others.