

# Sermon Study

Authority to Cleanse  
Matthew 8:1-4

## vision

Eastview  
Christian  
Church is a  
fearless church  
of Christ  
followers whose  
ridiculous love  
and dangerous  
witness are  
irresistible.

# MIRACLE KINGDOM

**AUTHOR'S NOTES** (summary of key points for this study)

*Key points of this passage:*

- Jesus is willing to cleanse from sin
- Jesus has authority to cleanse from sin
- God is Holy, we are to become Holy

**Gather** (your group getting to know each other)

Have you ever witnessed a miracle? If so, describe it to the group. If not, why not?

study notes

**Go**  
(your group on mission)

Let's show our family, our group, our community, what it looks like when the members of His Kingdom participate in the healing, purifying work of His Kingdom. Let's act on the faith we have in Him.

**Grow** (your group growing as Christ-followers)

**Key Scripture:**

Matthew 8:1-4 (ESV) Jesus Cleanses a Leper  
8 When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. 2 And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." 3 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

**Discussion:**

1. Start with prayer.

2. Review Matthew 8:1-4.

3. To start, we find leprosy mentioned in the passage above. What do you know about the disease? Is it the same today as what the Bible describes as leprosy?

4. The leper doesn't get caught up in whether Jesus can make him clean, that he believes. He asks if He will. Do we think of Jesus differently today? Can He? Will He? What aspect is harder for you to accept or believe? His ability, or his character?

5. The leper asked to be made clean, not to be healed. What do we make of that? Are they different?

6. What do you remember about the purifying Old Testament laws? Who could cleanse and where? Was it a sin to be unclean?

7. Consider this: The Old Testament system required a certain person (the High Priest) at a certain place (the temple) to conduct rituals resulting in the "cleansing" of the people. What does this say about Him that He had the authority to do so wherever He went? How scandalous that would have been to Jews at this time of Jesus!

**Give**  
(your group serving each other)

Israelites would become "unclean" during everyday life. Whether it was touching a corpse or mold, there were a lot of ways to make one unfit to enter God's space. Rituals would have been conducted to purify the person so they could re-approach God's presence. The fact that Jesus approaches the leper is significant. Pray that you and your group come into contact with this same Jesus. What uncleanness in your life are you ashamed or hesitate for Jesus to approach?