

Sermon Guide – Feb. 21, 2021

Scripture: *Matthew 8: 1-4*

1 When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; 2 and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." 3 He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 Then 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, as a testimony to them."

Our worship series during this season of Lent is called, "Holy Vessels, A Lenten Season of Recovery." The idea is that this past year has been so hard for us with COVID-19, racial issues in our country, and a very divisive election. Lots of people are really weary and just feel broken. We are going to spend the next six weeks talking about Jesus' healing stories and focus on how we can help people to feel better physically, economically, mentally, in our communities, environmentally.

Who do you know who has been physically ill during this past year, from COVID or from other illness or disease? Or maybe you have been sick.

Being physically ill has its issues, like being secluded, staying away from people. Even being around someone who had COVID meant we needed to be quarantined, too. Write about how you or a friend or relative felt when you or they were excluded from being around family and friends.

Imagine being the man with leprosy in today's Bible reading. There were very strict rules for people with leprosy. How would you feel if you were suddenly healed and could go home again?!

