

**Problem:**

You are unclean, unworthy, unable

Read the following article and discuss:

<http://www.biblicaljiujitsu.com/bad-apples/>

**Text****Unclean (Matthew 8:1-4)**

- Read Isaiah 1:1-6.
  - Who is the subject?
  - What might Matthew be doing in having this healing immediately after His sermon on the Mount?
- The leper in Matthew 8:3 asks if Jesus would be willing to heal him. Read: Numbers 12:9-15; 2 Kings 5:20-27; 2 Samuel 3:29; 2 Chronicles 26:16-23, and answer why he would ask this.
- Read Leviticus 13:45-46.
  - What is the significance of His touching Him especially in light of the fact that we see Him able to heal in the next section (Matt. 8:8, 13) from a distance?
  - Based on this Leviticus passage, what did the leper know about himself?

**Unworthy (Matthew 8:5-13)**

- Read Acts 10:27-29.
  - Why did the centurion recognize that he was unworthy before Christ?

**Unable (Matthew 8:14-17)**

- Again we see Jesus intimately reach out in His healing. Verse 17 is the key verse “He took,” is the key phrase. Read Isaiah 53:1-5.
  - What is Matthew pointing out that this healing points to?
  - From Craig Blomberg’s New American Commentary:
    - Charismatics have regularly appealed to this verse in maintaining that there is healing for physical maladies in the atonement. Inasmuch as the healings consistently function as pointers to God’s in-breaking kingdom, one should expect the present blessings of God’s reign at times to include miraculous recovery from illness.<sup>23</sup> But to require such healing of God this side of eternity loses sight of the future aspect of the kingdom. Only in the world to come will sickness and death be banished altogether from believers’ lives. Claims that so far all who were sick in Jesus’ presence seem to have been cured must be balanced with the data of John 5:1–15, in which Christ selected only one of many sick people to receive healing. Nor is it adequate to reply that the others didn’t ask to be made well, because the man Jesus chose to heal didn’t ask either. Jesus frequently worked miracles to create faith where it was not already present (e.g., Mark 4:35–41; 5:1–20), even while refraining from such

---

<sup>23</sup> Cf., from philosophical, exegetical, and experiential perspectives, respectively, C. Brown, *Miracles and the Critical Mind* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984); L. Sabourin, *The Divine Miracles Discussed and Defended* (Rome: Catholic Book Agency, 1977); and J. Wimber with K. Springer, *Power Evangelism* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986).

activity in similar situations elsewhere (e.g., Mark 6:1–6a; 8:11–13).

There is physical healing in the atonement for this age, but it is up to God in Christ to choose when and how to dispense it. Perfect healing, like the believer's resurrection body, ultimately awaits Christ's return.<sup>241</sup>

- Read this brief article and discuss:

- <http://www.letusreason.org/wf10.htm>

### **Implication: Fulfilled**

- Read Leviticus 21:16-24 - no blemished person shall even approach God.
- Read Leviticus 22:17-25 - no blemished sacrifice shall be accepted before God.
- Like the leper, He took our uncleanness and made us clean.
  - He is our unblemished priest
  - He is our unblemished sacrifice

- Read Acts 21:27-30 - no gentiles allowed in the house of God. But...
- Read Ephesians 2:11-22 - Jesus broke down the separating wall of hostility.
- He took our unworthiness and made us worthy

- Read Joshua 24:14-28 - Peter's mother-in-law was unable to do anything
- Ephesians 2:1-10 - so were we but
- Christ took our inability and made us able

### **Main Idea:**

He is willing

### **Application:**

- Read Hebrews 9:1-14 and 10:19-22.

I was unclean. I was unworthy. I was unable

But today I confidently draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith, my heart sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and my body washed with pure water.

Stop trying to get clean before you come to Christ.

Stop trying to become worthy of His love.

Stop trying to serve Him in your own failing strength.

Let His willingness to love you -unclean, unworthy, unable - wash over you

...and thank Him

-This is from Spurgeon's classic devotional [Morning and Evening](#)

"The liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." Galatians 5:1

This "liberty" makes us free to heaven's charter—the Bible.

---

<sup>24</sup> See esp. D. J. Moo, "Divine Healing in the Health and Wealth Gospel," *TrinJ* n.s. 9 (1988): 191–209; D. A. Carson, "Matthew," in *EBC*, vol. 8, ed. F. E. Gaebelin (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 207.

<sup>1</sup> Craig Blomberg, vol. 22, *Matthew*, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 145.

Here is a choice passage, believer, “When thou passest through the rivers, I will be with thee.” You are free to that.

Here is another: “The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee”; you are free to that. You are a welcome guest at the table of the promises.

Scripture is a never-failing treasury filled with boundless stores of grace. It is the bank of heaven; you may draw from it as much as you please, without let or hindrance. Come in faith and you are welcome to all covenant blessings. There is not a promise in the Word which shall be withheld. In the depths of tribulations let this freedom comfort you; amidst waves of distress let it cheer you; when sorrows surround thee let it be thy solace. This is thy Father’s love-token; thou art free to it at all times.

Thou art also free to the throne of grace. It is the believer’s privilege to have access at all times to His heavenly Father. Whatever our desires, our difficulties, our wants, we are at liberty to spread all before Him. It matters not how much we may have sinned, we may ask and expect pardon. It signifies nothing how poor we are, we may plead His promise that He will provide all things needful.

We have permission to approach His throne at all times-in midnight’s darkest hour, or in noontide’s most burning heat. Exercise thy right, O believer, and live up to thy privilege. Thou art free to all that is treasured up in Christ-wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. It matters not what thy need is, for there is fulness of supply in Christ, and it is there for thee. O what a “freedom” is thine! freedom from condemnation, freedom to the promises, freedom to the throne of grace, and at last freedom to enter heaven!

(from Spurgeon’s classic devotional [Morning and Evening](#))

Discuss how to tangibly apply this message in your lives. Be specific and work hard to be mastered by these truths in a real and specific way.