

# Willing

## Luk 5:12-16

While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

13 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

14 Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

15 Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. 16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.<sup>(NIV)</sup>

## Able but willing?

Jesus had started His ministry.

People had been healed, demons cast out, needs met in miraculous ways.

Jesus demonstrated the power of God - **Act 10:38**

### My struggle.

From my earliest days as a Christian I never really struggled with God's ability - I figured if He could speak all of creation into existence, if He could rise from the dead, then nothing is impossible for Him. In fact, many times we read in the Bible that nothing is impossible with God.

That wasn't my problem tho. My problem, and I believe many of us share the same problem, is the same as the leper's

## The Leper's question

Is Jesus willing? **He knew Jesus could - the big question is whether Jesus would.**

Jesus answered that question with just one word in the Greek - **I Am willing! Be clean!**

With just one word He blew away all the man's doubts and fears and with one more word He healed and cleansed him.

That's what thrills me about the Bible, that's something that excites me about God. Everything can be hopeless and helpless but then - just one word from the lips of Jesus and Bam! Everything changes! That's one big reason to daily get into God's word.

**Not a blank cheque.** Now, I want to clarify something here - Jesus saying, **I am willing** to the leper isn't a blank cheque for us - "I am willing" for every situation.

- Marry that person
- Give me £1,000,000
- Bigger, faster car.

But - what it does is offer us something more solid and substantial than a quick fix for our needs, it gives us insight into the heart of God.

## God is for us

The Bible describes the world, the people who haven't clung to Jesus for forgiveness as being under His wrath and His enemies.

But as Christians that whole position is now changed! Instead of being against us God is now for us. I want to share with you a passage that several years ago changed my whole life.

**Context of Jer 32-33** - Country about to be overthrown - buy a field!

**Jer 32:17** - Ah Lord God....

**32:27** - Behold I am the LORD....

**Jer 32:36-41** "You are saying about this city, 'By the sword, famine and plague it will be handed over to the king of Babylon'; but this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: <sup>37</sup>I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. <sup>38</sup>They will be my people, and I will be their God. <sup>39</sup>I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them. <sup>40</sup>**I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. <sup>41</sup>I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.**

God rejoices - takes delight in, enjoys and finds pleasure in doing us good!  
He puts His heart and soul into it!

### *Propitiated*

Teach a big word!

How can this be? How can the God who was once our enemy now be so good and happy towards us?  
On what basis?

Our good behaviour?

Holiness?

Performance related?

No! Because of Jesus!

**Rom 3:23-25** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

**Redemption** - buying back, setting free from captivity.

**Justified** = ? Just as if I'd kept all the commands!

**Propitiation** = ? The one who pays the price for sin and satisfies the righteous and just anger, justice and wrath of God.

**1 John 2:1-2** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Why is John writing this letter?

Propitiation!

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is **faithful** and **just** to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- ❖ Faithful!
- ❖ Just!

❖ God is no longer mad with you!

Often we think of God as either:

➤	Mad
➤	Sad

But in reality He is glad!

### *Actively for us*

Apart from being propitiated - His anger taken away, justice satisfied and now able to smile at us, the Bible teaches that God is now actively involved in our lives and working for our good.

**Rom 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Paul says we know something - **what are we to know?**

**I want you to leave here today persuaded of the fact that God's heart is toward you**

That God is for you.

That God is actively involved in your life.

**What is God doing?** Working ALL things together for our good!

**What is our good?** = More like Jesus, holiness, eternal joy in Him.

All things! Everything!

Joseph - God meant it for good!

Paul's questions:

**Rom 8:31-39**

**31** What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

**32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

**33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

**34** Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died –more than that, who was raised to life –is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

**35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

Then to summarise:

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Are you persuaded? Do you know?

Are you still like the leper asking - **are you willing?** Or have you come to God thru' Jesus and seen Him

smile upon you and know, not just that He isn't angry anymore but instead that He loves you with a passionate love and is actively and intricately involved in you life?