

02 AN UNKEPT SECRET

KEY TEXT: MARK 1:35-45

CENTRAL truth

Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and He loves us. People need to know this good news even more than they need the other miracles they hope and pray for. **Jesus is too good not to talk about!**

key question

Jesus is the exact representation of God the Father (see Heb. 1:3). What does Jesus's interaction with the man with leprosy tell us about God's character?

Jesus could have healed the man with leprosy while keeping His distance, but He didn't. He stepped right into the personal bubble of a man whose disease made him unclean by Jewish standards, which meant that anyone else who interacted with him would also become unclean. Jesus ignored these prohibitions and touched Him, something the man probably hadn't experienced in a very long time. Jesus showed us that God is compassionate, and He is willing and able to meet all our needs.

keep in mind

- Because inclusion is a hot topic right now, some students might be offended by the idea of disease making a person unclean and excluding them from worship. Explain that God didn't make rules about spiritual cleanliness to make people feel bad or left out. He did it to illustrate His own holiness and show that He is not like us. If we thought He was, we might not see our need for Him or appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made to give us access.
- The current political climate could make discussion of the relationship between Rome and the Jews uncomfortable. Be mindful of this tension as you lead students in discussion, and keep the focus on the text, not modern-day politics.

application

When we're exhausted, how can we be encouraged by Jesus's example in verse 35?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: God is kind and compassionate. He isn't offended by our broken parts, so we can go to Him for help. Students need to know God wants to use us to meet the needs of others. When they let Him, they represent Jesus well and create opportunities to share the Gospel. What a privilege!

FOR THE LEADER: Draw attention to Jesus's kindness, compassion, and willingness to get involved with people who others ignore. Tell them how Jesus has done this for you. Challenge students to imitate Jesus and to be ready to share the gospel when they get a chance!