

Feb. 11, 2018 Mk. 1: 40-45 & Lev. 13: 1-2, 44-46

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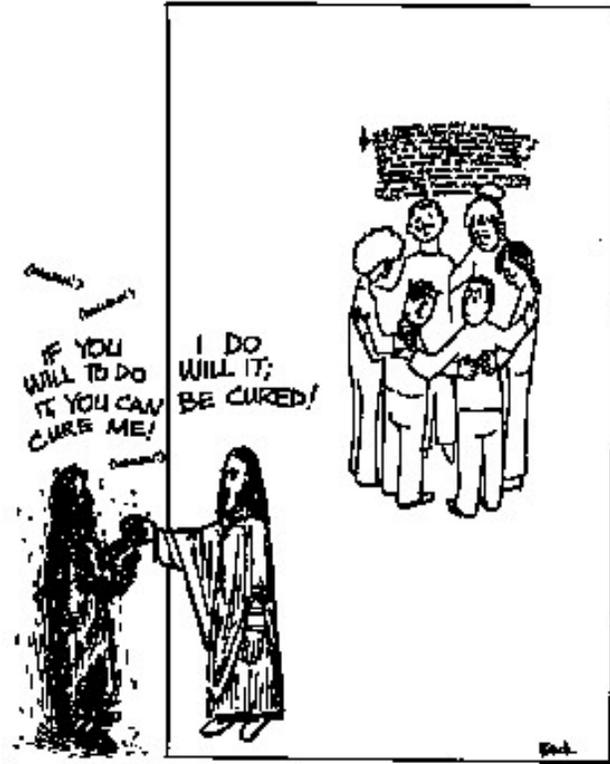
Drawing with permission by Fr. Robert Beck

Link to [Beck](#) (paywall) other [Beck](#)

Stone, Naomi. [The Transforming Touch](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Making the Taboo a Holy Place](#)

[Jesus Heals a Leper](#)



ENTERING THE SCENE:

Fr. Beck says: "Jesus takes the risk of a relationship, of accepting the invitation to a relationship that the leper begs for: *If you wish, you can make me clean. If you wish, in other words. You can meet me as a person, meet me face to face, look into my eyes to see a human spirit dwelling there. You can count yourself as an exception to those who discount me, who look right through me, who avert their eyes when I am around, who quickly move off in the other directions. If you wish, you can count me as a fellow human being, and not as a specimen of danger, a case of pollution.* Jesus said, *I do will it. Be made clean.* And he reached out and touched him."

Now the question is can we move beyond our safe circle of prayer to reach out and touch?

Mark 1: 40-45

40 A man with **leprosy** came to him and **begged** him on his **knees**, "**If you are willing**, you can **make me clean**." 41 **Filled with compassion**,

Jesus **reached out** his hand and **touched** the man. "**I am willing**," he said. "**Be clean!**" 42 **Immediately** the **leprosy** left him and he was **cured**. 43 Jesus **sent him away** at once with a **strong warning**: 44 See that you **don't tell** this to anyone. But go, **show yourself to the priest** and **offer the sacrifices** that **Moses** commanded for your **cleansing**, as a **testimony** to them." 45 Instead he **went out** and began to **talk freely**, **spreading the news**. As a result, Jesus **could no longer enter a town openly** but **stayed outside in lonely places**. Yet the people **still came to him from everywhere**.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: The leper didn't doubt that Jesus could help him if he asked. Am I equally confident that God is not only able but eager to help when I ask?

PRAYER: Lord, Mark tells me that you were filled with compassion when you reached out and touched the untouchable leper. When I am feeling unclean because of a failure to love I first have to come to an acceptance of what is causing that which is making me dangerous to others. Help me to be like the leper who trusted your ability to free me from this limitation. Amen