

Mark 1:40

Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."

Every time I read today's verse, all I can think is I love how this leper came to Jesus and what he said to Jesus, which is *"If You are willing, You can make me clean."* With the focus being on the very first part which is, *"If You are willing"*.

But so many times, we are on the opposite side of requesting from Jesus or God, almost to the point of demanding that He do for us what we ask. Yes we put it subtly with things like, *"I know you can heal me, so heal me."* Some go the extreme of a guilt request like, *"If You really loved me Lord, You would heal me right now."* There are even those pastor that teach the good ol' Name it and Claim it, which is another way of saying that you have every right to demand it from God and He has to answer per your demand.

Now don't get me wrong, it's not wrong to ask the Lord to heal us, or provide for our needs, or whatever our request may be. Once again, it's not the request, but how we request, or to cut straight to the heart, how we sometimes demand from the Lord.

The Leper came humbly to the Lord, not demanding, but knowing Who Jesus was and respecting and honoring Jesus for Who He is, and in response Jesus said:

† **Mark 1:41-42** *Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.*

It says that **"Jesus was moved with compassion"** (italics mine) for this man because the way he came to Jesus, not like everyone else as we read in the gospels how the people thronged Jesus and when I read that I think of them also pushing others away to get next to this man called Jesus of Nazareth, because He seemed to be a rock star in the eyes of some, and you know how the world wants to be seen with a rock star. I'm sure if this was now a days, these same people would all be hanging around Jesus with cell phones out, doing videos and trying to get a selfie with Jesus. Even today, people will take a picture of a burnt tortilla or a stain on their carpet telling everyone that it looks like Jesus, how much more so if the real deal were here.

But the thing is, that's the opposite of what Jesus taught, which was, *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."* **Matthew 16:24 (KJV)**

If you are denying yourself, then you would never demand anything from the Lord, because when you demand from the Lord, you are now making yourself lord over God.

- † **Job 38:1-3** *Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.*

- † **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*

- † **Philippians 4:5-6** *Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*