



Presentation Description:

Who Are The Lepers?

Changing our minds about who are Jesus' "least." Reexamining who are those marginalized by our contemporary society and church structures, but are very important to Jesus. What does this mean for today, and how do we reconnect with this divine mission of Christ?

This presentation is intended to give images to the concepts of poverty and the marginalized, while talking through the outline (below) with the accompanying PowerPoint Slideshow. It is not scripted or timed--just intended to scroll while talking. The last slide does not scroll and is used to help people answer questions within themselves.

Outline:

The theme begins with how leprosy was a contagious disease that God's law addressed with the design to keep people safe. Later, leprosy was expanded to mean all skin problems (*infectious or not*) and became part of the purity code. The purity code became a litmus test for sin and leprosy became an excuse to force the "impure" sinner to live apart from the society. Leprosy, later became defined as those who did not contribute productively to society.

Healing & safety: Lev. 13 & 14, & Mark 1:40-45 (Lev. 14:1-32)

Jesus confronted this litmus test by forgiving sin and verifying His abolition of a corrupt purity code system by physically healing them as well (in case anyone should doubt...).

Mk 2:1-12 & Mk 7:1-23

Jesus commissions his disciples to release his contemporaries, who were marginalized by the corrupt purity code cast system, and warns them that it will not be well received by the religious types--even unto persecution.

Matt. 10:5-26

Other talking points are Lazarus at the gate. i.e., the marginalized at the door of the Church, *Lk 16:19-31* and how we are expected to treat the poor, *Deut. 24*.

The last slide that stays onscreen, is of a health care volunteer washing a homeless man's feet (*homeless people encounter very dangerous foot problems due to unclean socks, worn over-and-over, no socks at all, unclean shoes, no where to wash, and from being forced to keep moving -- upright for too long without laying the body down, needed for healthy circulation*). The question to the audience is, "**Who is Jesus in this picture?**" Let them answer or ponder for a while, later using Matthew 20:28 and Matthew 25:35-45 to resolve the question with "**Both are.**"

If we are Jesus' disciples, we are commissioned to find, and release our lepers who are bound by modern purity code cast systems. Anything less, is less than following Jesus. An incomplete Gospel.

Now the question should be posed is, "**Who are YOU in this picture?**"

Note: "The poor will always be among you..." (translation: you better always be with the marginalized, powerless, those with less honor, the weak, frail, the ones lurking in the shadows, the poor, and the homeless,...)

The presentation can be short, or as long you need it. It can be done in as little as 10 minutes or as long as ½ hour with the same slides.

Blessings as you get the word out about the forgotten in our churches.