**Sermon Notes**

**“Dead Man Walking”**

Mark 1:29–45 (NIV)

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door,

34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. 35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

38 Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. 40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

41 Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

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.

**Dead Man Walking**

2 Corinthians 5:21
“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

**Questions for Discussion**

1. How would you summarize this message for someone who wasn’t able to hear it? What did you feel was the most important “take away”?

2. Jesus responded to increased popularity and increased opportunity with increased prayer. Is this your response in similar situations? Why or why not?

3. Who are the “lepers” today? What would it look like for the church to be the hands and feet of Jesus to that group of people? Is the church doing a good job in reflecting Christ’s love and compassion to these people?

4. Jesus was “indignant,” upon seeing the leprous man. Does the horror of sin and suffering still grip your heart, or have you become desensitized to the pain in others’ lives? How do you become re-sensitized?

5. In what ways do you see yourself in the story of Jesus cleansing the leper? (read 1 John 1:7, Revelation 1:5, 2 Peter 1:5-9)

**Take Action**

Bring your most vile and shameful sin before Jesus this week in prayer. Read over this account of Jesus’ healing of the leper repeatedly and pray that the truth that you have been cleansed in Christ would be made real to your heart.