

Lutheran Foundations: A Confirmation Curriculum©

Year 2. Jesus Christ: His Life and Work

The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish

Lesson 12. Miracles: Healing Lepers

January 7, 2026

Diagnosis and Purification of “Leprosy” (Tzaraath) in Leviticus 13 and 14

Almost certainly not Modern Leprosy...

Leprosy, or Hansen's disease, is a chronic bacterial infection (Mycobacterium leprae) that primarily affects the skin, peripheral nerves, eyes, and lining of the nose, causing numb skin patches, nerve damage, and disfigurement, but it's curable with treatment and not easily spread, often requiring long-term close contact to transmit. Symptoms develop slowly, taking years, and include pale/red skin patches with loss of sensation, nerve pain, and potential paralysis or blindness if untreated, with types like paucibacillary (fewer lesions) and multibacillary (more lesions) treated with multi-drug therapy (MDT) to prevent complications. (Gemini Summary)

Mark 1:40-45

⁴⁰ A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸ Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."