

Jesus cures the leper

Mark 1:40-42

A leper came to Jesus (and kneeling down) begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.

But did you notice? The leper came to Jesus knowing that he could be healed. He knew Jesus could do it, if He wanted to. His belief, his faith, not only brought out the healing qualities of Jesus, but the healing qualities within himself—the *placebo effect*. Do you think he would have been healed if he would have gone up to Jesus with the attitude of "Well, I don't really believe in this healing stuff, but I guess I can take your word for it that maybe you can heal me"?

Not only would Jesus not have the motivation and energy to heal (although he could have either way), but the man would not be in the receiving mode; he may not have been able to hold onto a healing touch if he had received it.

As another example, Jesus spoke truth when He told the woman cured of hemorrhaging that "Your faith has healed you." She believed, she knew, and, indeed, she was healed!

Author Louise Hay, whose cancer was healed through the grace of persistent positive affirmations, said, "What you choose to think about yourself and about life becomes true for you." Somehow the leper knew this, and had faith that Jesus' compassion would reach out to him and bless his leprosy away. You see, his belief made it possible—Jesus' grace made it happen!

By Rich Melcher