



# Daily Reflections

**January 12, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Mark 1:40-45**

A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him,

"I do will it. Be made clean."

The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.

Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything,

but go, show yourself to the priest

and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed;

that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter.

He spread the report abroad

so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.

He remained outside in deserted places,

and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Poor Jesus! He tells the newly healed leper, "See that you tell no one anything." The leper tells everyone what Jesus did for him. Why did Jesus insist on secrecy? Because He did not want people to get a premature picture of His identity. Up to this point, people have only seen the miraculous good times. However, Calvary has yet to come. Jesus' true identity as the Messiah will not be revealed until He gives His life on the cross.

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## **Food for your Journey**

True change requires more than experimenting with isolated attempts to alter automatic reflexes; it involves replacing old behaviors with new ones that eventually become as natural and comfortable as the old ones. It is more than quietly stealing away from the hostile dog; it is learning how to make friends with that dog and take it for a walk.

—Jerold Kreisman and Hal Straus, *I Hate You – Don't Leave Me* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1989), 92.

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You came into this world to give Your life for me. Help me to show my gratitude by giving my life in service to You. Amen.

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