

Based on the gospel for Sunday 11 February – Mark 1:40-45

“The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.”

The man with leprosy is pushed out of society because of his disease. Yet, in meeting Jesus, he finds hope. He recognises Jesus as one who has the power to cure him and bring him back into the community.

Today, there are many in positions of power who have the means to give hope to people living in poverty, people who are often ignored. They could support them in creating a new kind of society from which they are not shut out. But do they, like Jesus, want to do this?

“If you want to,” says the sick man simply, “you can cure me.” Jesus replies, “Of course I want to!” Jesus wants this person to enjoy life in all its fullness. If our lives are God-centred and so love-centred, we too will do the loving thing and respond to those in need. We can reach out to touch them through our prayers, actions and donations and so enable all of us to live a full life.

Through the generous donations and prayers of people in England and Wales, and working together with overseas partners, CAFOD can help people who are now excluded to rebuild their lives. For this we give praise and thanks to God.



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God of compassion, fill us with your love. Inspire us to reach out and touch the lives of those who are excluded and so transform our global society into the image of God's kingdom, where love and hope overcome hatred and prejudice. Amen.