



- WHY THE -

CHURCH

MUST CARE

ABOUT PEOPLE LIVING WITH

HIV & AIDS

COMPASSION
COMMUNITY
REAL SOLUTIONS

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HIV & AIDS
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// WHY THE CHURCH MUST CARE ABOUT PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV&AIDS

Sometimes people ask, “Why should I care about people who are HIV positive?” The answer is simple! We care about people living with HIV&AIDS because Jesus cares. The Gospels are filled with examples of Jesus caring for the sick and the marginalized. In fact, he spent one-third of his ministry healing people.

In Mark 1:40–42 (NLT) the Bible says, “A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. ‘If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,’ he said. Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be healed!’ Instantly the leprosy disappeared, the man was healed.”

In Jesus’ day, lepers lived lives of isolation and stigma. They were outcasts, forced to shout out to everyone “unclean, unclean” as they walked through town. This leprous man heard about Jesus’ power to heal every sort of disease and made the courageous choice to find him, braving the stares, cursing, fear, and rejection of others. How did Jesus respond?

He CARED (vs. 41)

Jesus was “moved with compassion.” His heart broke as he looked at this suffering man. Jesus wasn’t filled with revulsion or distaste, but with deep empathy. The accepted belief of the time was that lepers had a secret, unconfessed sin that caused their illness, but Jesus healed him with no questions about his past. He offered his love without condition.

He TOUCHED (vs. 41)

Jesus broke through the social and religious stigma of the day to communicate value, love, and worth to this man. With a single *word* he could have healed him, but Jesus chose to reach out and *touch* him, restoring his dignity.

He HEALED (vs. 42)

Jesus didn’t leave the man in his weakened, sick condition; he healed him. While we pray the cure for HIV&AIDS is discovered in the near future, there is spiritual, emotional, and relational healing in Jesus Christ today. 1 Peter 2:24 (GW) says, “Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God’s approval. His wounds have healed you.”

Our greatest need is not for medication or physical healing, but for inner spiritual healing, and to know the Creator of the universe loves us and seeks to be in relationship with us.

We, the church, are God’s representative on earth—we care because he does!