



*Light a Light for Leprosy*

26 January 2025

*World Leprosy Day  
Last Sunday of January*





# Mark 1: Jesus Heals a Leper



*video excerpt from 'The Chosen'*



## Reflections

There are two figures we need to focus upon: the leper and the Lord.





## From the leper, we learn:

- We come to Jesus just as we are. Just like the leper who came to Jesus full of leprosy, we can come to Jesus with our bad habits, doubts, anxiety, anger...
- We come to Jesus with desperation. Just like the leper who approached Jesus knowing that Jesus was his last hope, we come to Jesus knowing He is our only hope.
- We come to Jesus with humility. Just like the leper who knelt before Jesus, we lay our lives before Jesus acknowledging that He is Lord.
- We come to Jesus with respect. Just like the leper who said, “If you are willing...” indicating that Jesus was in charge and believing Jesus could do something for him. We also come to Jesus with similar respect.
- We come to Jesus with confidence. Just like the leper who knew Jesus could heal him and cleanse him, we come to Jesus knowing He can help, heal and free us.



## From Jesus, we learn:

- Jesus cares. Jesus was “moved with compassion” toward this man. Jesus empathized with this man’s horrible condition, the agony of his isolation and his distress. Compassion moved Him to take action. Jesus is a compassionate Lord.
- Jesus identifies. Ever since this man had been diagnosed with leprosy, no one had touched him. Yet, in a moment of total vulnerability, Jesus was identifying with the leper by touching him: in reality, Jesus was symbolically passing His power to him.
- Jesus heals. When Jesus reached out and touched the man was healed: “healed” in the ceremonial sense, “healed” in the medical understanding of the word, and ready to be restored to the community and society.



## Our Part in daily life : As followers of Jesus

- We must follow the path of compassion towards those who are hurting, who are afraid, or worried. “As God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another” (Col. 3: 12-13).
- We will have to empathize with people, identify with their pain, touch their lives letting them know, “I love you just like you are, and I am here to help you.”
- We believe that when Jesus is allowed to touch a life, He literally changes it into “a new creature” by His amazing power (2 Cor. 5:17). He cleanses from sin, He heals the fears, the worries, anxieties and doubts. He gives a new heart, new hope, new mind, and new direction and purpose in life. Jesus heals!



## **Our Part in daily life : As members of the Order of St Lazarus** The Statutes of the brethren of St Lazarus during the Crusader Period

### **How to care for the sick**

- The sick to be looked after, or those who shall be rehabilitated after an illness, or those working with an infirmity due to a previous illness, should be entrusted to someone who may request from the cellar all that is necessary for them. Also, those responsible for the cellar or the garments or the books shall serve their confreres without complaint.



**Our Part in daily life : As members of the Order of St Lazarus**

**World Leprosy Theme 2025: 'Beat Leprosy, End Stigma, and Advocate for Mental Well-Being'**

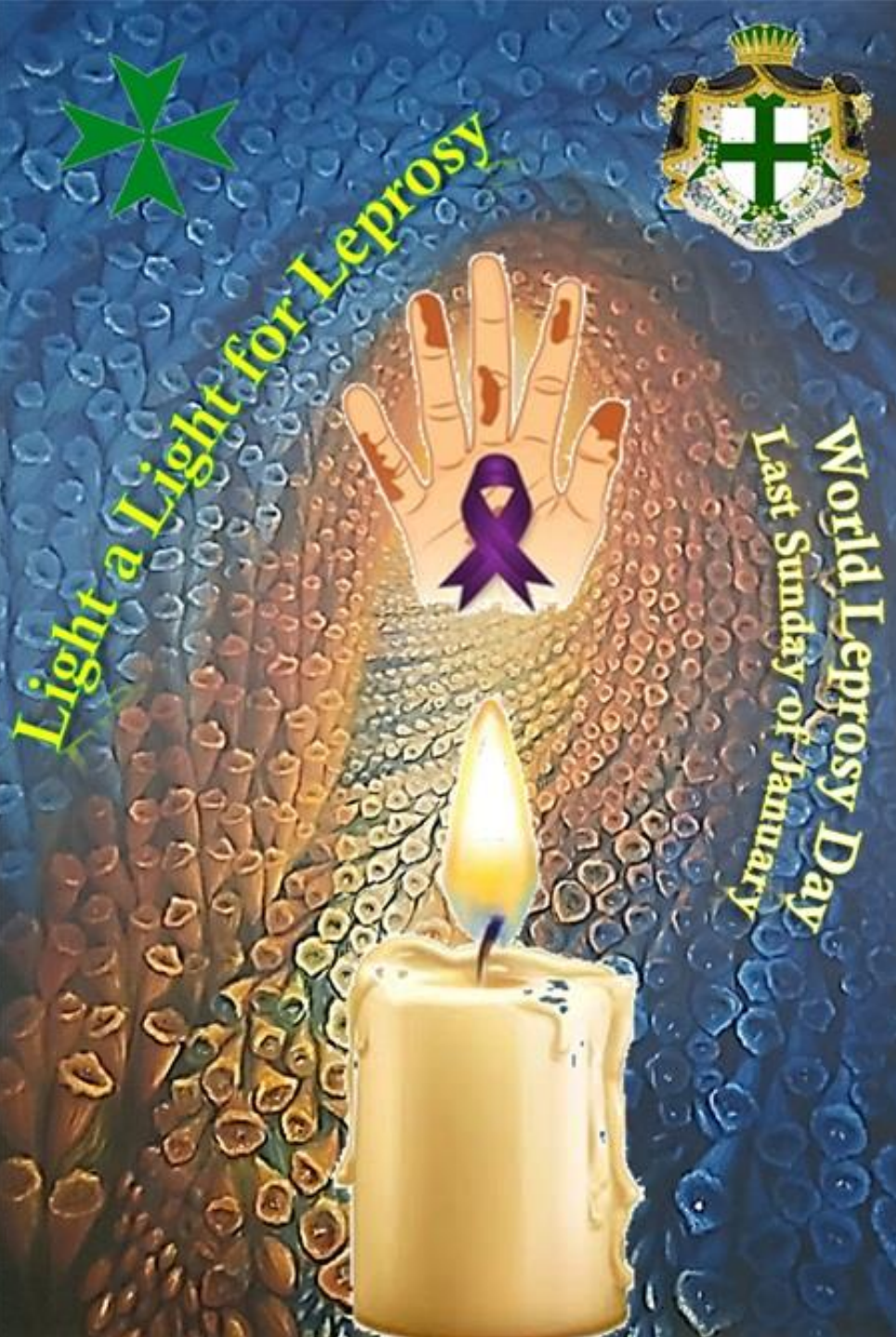
- **Let us be particularly sensitive to the sufferings of the victims of leprosy.**
- **Let us endorse and promote the four strategic pillars of the WHO Global Leprosy Strategy for 2021-2030**
  - (i) Help the implementation of integrated, country-owned zero leprosy roadmaps in all endemic countries;**
  - (ii) Help the process for the scale-up of prevention alongside integrated active case detection;**
  - (iii) Help manage leprosy and its complications and prevent new disability; and**
  - (iv) Help combat stigma and ensure human rights are respected.**





## AWARENESS

The members within any jurisdiction should be made aware of the importance of the day, not only because of the historical importance for the Order but because, in spite of treatment being available, new cases are still being diagnosed.



## EDUCATION

The victims of the infection are still stigmatized because of the fear of contagion. They often are social outcasts, even when they have received treatment and are cured. The members of the Order must be encouraged to inform themselves and educate others about the condition.