

Filled With Compassion

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

– Mark 1:41 (NIV)

In the first year of my ministry I was invited to attend a training conference where one of the teachers took the trainees through the most repulsive areas in the city. I had heard about the evil of such disgusting areas but who would have imagined as a minister to visit that area. As I walked through that area I felt terribly sad and depressed. Next day, the leader asked the trainees to express their feelings in words. Words such as *grieved, angry, bitter, sadness, depressed, challenged, and ashamed* captured our feelings, but the teacher seemed to be looking for a different word. He finally asked, “If any one also felt *compassionate and hopeful.*” There was a pin-drop silence in the room. The answer was obvious. He reminded us of Jesus how he looked at the unclean of the society with *compassion and hope*. He saw them what the unclean could become rather than what they were. I thank God for the lesson that I learned at the beginning of my ministry.

Prayer: Blessed Lord! Fill my heart with the compassion and hope for the people who are suffering from the captivity of the unclean world.

Thought for the Day

The grieving for the results of sin is over for the hope of life in Christ is here.

A. K. Lama (Alabama)

Prayer Focus: THE HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS