

## In Jesus There Is Hope for Everyone

**The law given by God to Moses** is a great gift which humans need to follow in order to enjoy the good life that we were created to enjoy by God. The perfect interpretation of that law and revelation of what that law can accomplish for everyone is revealed to us by Jesus Christ, who is God, the lawmaker. Everyone is precious to God. Each of us is always loved by God in Jesus, as if we were the only one. The law can never make us realize how much God loves us. Only in an intimate prayerful relationship with Jesus Christ, do we experience, and begin to understand that love, and its healing power in our lives.

In dealing with leprosy (**think of criminals as lepers**), we are given a good example of the way Jesus Christ fulfills the law with compassion and merciful love, benefiting everyone which the law cannot help when interpreted and enforced, without compassion and mercy love, by humans.

*“A **leper** came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, ‘If you choose, you can make me clean.’ Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I do choose. **Be made clean!**’ Immediately **the leprosy left him**, and he was made clean.”*  
(Mark 1:40-42)

All that the law could accomplish in Jesus’s time was to keep the leper away from the community. This is the best that the law can accomplish with the **lepers(criminals)** in our communities. We put them in prisons for long periods of time. We do a poor job of healing(rehabilitation), and many come back to the community more dangerous, and more infected, and more inclined to criminal activity, than they were before they entered prison. Instead of more laws and more prisons, what we need is more of Jesus, in our hearts and minds.

Jesus was not a lawbreaker. Consider what he told that leper after he healed him.

*“After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, ‘See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.’”* (Mark 1:43-44)

The **Mosaic law** would require that a person who had leprosy present himself to a priest who would judge what was best for the community in the situation.

*“The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: when a person has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot, and it turns into a leprous disease on the skin of his body, he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests.” (Leviticus 13:1-2)*

We never want to lose sight of the fact that **God cares for and can, in Christ, heal and restore to any community, with healthy, fruitful lives, even the terminally ill lepers (criminals).**