HAVEN
BIBLE CHURCH

November 8, 2026

Reading the Book of Mark Like a Past Event with a Present Reality

Mark 1:40-44 doesn't just tell us that a leper came to Jesus. He describes it in a way that allows us to see it happening. It's almost as if he says, 'And here comes a leper!' Mark wants us to picture the scene. This isn't just a story about something Jesus did long ago. We are being invited to witness the moment.

This is called the historical present tense—using present-tense language to describe a past event and make the story more vivid.

1. "And here comes - Write Your Name in the Blank."

The leper did not question the power Jesus had to heal the sick and diseased. He questioned his willingness and his desire.

Have you ever wondered if anyone cared about you? What about God's concern for you?

2. His Decision to Save Me Was Already Made.

Kenneth Wuest, an Evangelical Biblical Greek New Testament scholar and one of the original translators of the New American Standard Bible, points out something interesting about the Greek wording.

Jesus stretched out His hand and touched the leper. But His decision to heal him had already been made. Before His hand ever reached the man, Jesus had already determined what He was going to do. When Jesus said, "I will; be thou clean," He wasn't making a decision on the spot. He was expressing a decision He had already made.

3. And He Restores Me Completely.

- He restores my condition — the leper is cleansed.
- He restores my dignity — Jesus touches someone everyone else avoided.
- He restores my relationships — he can return to the community.
- He restores my future — he is no longer defined by his leprosy.

The man came to Jesus carrying a condition that separated him from everyone else. He left with a life that had been completely changed. Jesus didn't just change his circumstances. He changed his future.