

## **Living in the Scripture With the Imagination**

**By: Bob Whitaker**

Take a paragraph from the New Testament Gospels every day. Read the paragraph very carefully, noticing the details. Then close your eyes and try to picture the whole scene. Put yourself into the scene, preferably you be the person who is ministered to or one of the disciples watching. An example could be Mark 1:40-44.

Imagine yourself a leper living in rags in a mud shack outside of Nazareth on a windswept hillside. Perhaps see yourself living with a small colony of miserable lepers, filthy and feeling rejected by society and periodically crying to anyone who came near to you “unclean, unclean”. Then imagine that you see Jesus and His disciples coming down the road towards where you are. See them in their robes and sandals, kicking up the dust as they come. Then see Him coming closer and closer and, as required by law, you are crying out “unclean, unclean” so that they don’t get too close. But He keeps coming towards you. You have heard about Him. He is a wonderful, compassionate healer and you know you need Him desperately. So in your desperation you run toward Him even though it’s unlawful and you throw yourself at His feet and cry out to Him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” Then picture the compassion and pity on His face as He looks at you. Picture Him stretching out His hand and touching you and imagine a wonderful heat going all through your body from your head to your toes. And imagine your flesh becoming soft and fresh like that of a new baby. Realize the wonder of being liberated from this horrible curse. Imagine yourself falling at His feet again, thanking Him again and praising Him for this wonderful deliverance. Then, hear Him saying to you, “Go immediately to the temple and offer a sacrifice to God for your cleansing. Then see yourself going to the temple, sharing your story with the priest, having him inspect and confirm your healing and then publicly offering sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to God among the worshipers.

If you would take a portion of Scripture each day and live in it with your imagination, you will be astonished at what happens. Increasingly, Jesus will become very real to you. Increasingly, you will sense His presence and hear Him speaking to your inner being. Increasingly, you will get in touch with your hurts and sins that are hindering your Christian walk and you will experience the liberation and healing of Jesus. When you focus on Him, your whole being becomes flooded with His light and blessing.

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