

Didache Divine Service

Session 19

Wednesday Lenten Midweek, February 21, 2024, at 8:00 a.m., 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Confession: What is confession?

Bible Reading: Jesus Cleanses the Leper: Mark 1:35-45

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a ³⁵solitary place; and there He prayed. ³⁶And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. ³⁷When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

³⁸But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."

³⁹And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

⁴⁰Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."

⁴¹Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." ⁴²As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed. ⁴³And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

⁴⁵However, he went out and began to proclaim *it* freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction.

1. Why did Jesus get up early in the morning?
2. Why was everyone looking for Jesus?
3. Why did Jesus want to go into the next towns?
4. For what reason did Jesus say He came into the world?
5. What accompanied Jesus' preaching in the synagogues of Galilee?
6. What characterizes the kingdom of Satan?
7. What did the leper say to Jesus?
8. What moved Jesus to stretch out His hand and touch the leper?
9. What is Jesus' compassion?
10. What does it mean for us that Jesus was willing to cleanse the leper?
11. When did the leprosy leave the leper?
12. Why was the cleansed leper sent to the priest as Moses had commanded?
13. Why did the man "freely proclaim" that Jesus had healed him?
14. What did the news of the cleansed leper cause?
15. What is the disease of leprosy a sign of?
16. What really cleansed the man of his leprosy?

The Small Catechism: Confession

HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO CONFESS

What is confession?

Confession has two parts.

First, that we confess our sins, and

second, that we receive absolution,

that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself,

not doubting,

but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

- **Christ's compassion** for us as "leprous sinners" is what gives us the courage to confess and seek our Lord's help.
- **Christ's promise to forgive** (in the Gospel) is what draws us to Jesus for absolution.
- **Confession of sin** and confession of faith in Christ are the same:
 - a. "I am a sinner"
 - b. "Christ is my Savior"

All forms of confession express what we have come to know and believe is true according to God's Word.

- **Jesus gives us pastors to give us certainty** that our sins really are forgiven: They speak Jesus' word of forgiveness to us in His stead and by His command.
- **The purpose of confession is to receive Christ's absolution for the strengthening of our faith in Christ.** Think of the absolution as the ongoing, "I love you" from the Lord Jesus. Faith lives from his love and forgiveness.