



WILL THIS MAN DARE TO COME TO JESUS?

Slide 1

Slide 2 Today, we're going to talk about friends; do you have any friends?

Certainly! It's important to have **Slide 3** friends and even more important to have **Slide 4** good friends. If not. You feel lonely and it's sad. You can count on your friends; **Slide 5** share your games with them, your joys and **Slide 6** your worries. It makes us feel **Slide 7** good.

Are you a good friend, a friend who can be counted on? **Slide 8** Friendship is important ...

Slide 9 but do you know what compassion is, and how to show compassion? No! Not really! Well, you will know what it is by listening the story that you can **Slide 10** re-read in the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark and then you can answer my question: **Slide 11** what is compassion?

Slide 12 WHAT WILL JESUS DO WHEN HE SEES THIS SITUATION?

Imagine a man all alone, **Slide 13** without work, without money, without a future, without a friend, a man who is totally rejected by everyone It's hot or it's cold ... it's the same!

Slide 14 He lives in a kind of wooden hut, on a piece of waste land, in summer there's dust and in winter mud and he lives outside the village. Yes! He is forbidden to enter the village and even more so, the temple. There's no way that he can go to pray or listen to the Word of God, no way that he can hear words that could give him courage or hope.

Why is he in this situation? Why was he forced to leave his friends and his family? Did he do something wrong? **Slide 15** No! He is simply sick! He has a very serious illness.

Slide 16 He is disfigured by nasty wounds, his hands, his feet, and his whole body causes him constant pain. Do you know what this disease is? It's called leprosy. At that time, there was no treatment for this disease. No-one wanted to be in contact with a leper because they were afraid of catching this illness. When people brought food to a leper, **Slide 17** they put the food in his hut and left in haste. **Slide 18** If a leper walked even a short distance, he would have to shout: **Slide 19** - Leper! Leper! Unclean! As soon as he saw people.

People would immediately lower their heads, and walk away as fast as they could to avoid the leper. They didn't want to see the leper and and they certainly didn't want to touch him,

nor to be touched by him. He bothered people; he would scare them and even disgust them, for he was different. Would we go so far as to be mean to him? Perhaps it happened to him!

Slide 20 Alone, in pain, with no hope of ever getting better, his life is terribly sad.

It is not known how he heard about Jesus but one day he learned **Slide 21** that He was in the region. People **Slide 22** were getting ready to go and listen to Him and take their sick to be healed.

Slide 23 What is he going to do? What can he do? He cannot get close to anyone! He is rejected by everyone? Will he dare to get close Jesus? What will Jesus do when He sees him? Will he step aside? Look away? He decides **Slide 24** to try, and painfully tries to get close to Him. When people saw him approaching, they would shout:

Slide 25 - A leper! and would move away as quickly as possible.

Slide 26 But he threw himself down at Jesus feet and begged Him:

Slide 27 - Lord, if you want, **Slide 28** you can heal me, and make me pure.

Slide 29 Jesus looked at him and was moved with compassion. It's as if he himself felt the immense suffering and despair of this man. **Slide 30** He laid his hand on the leper and said to him:

Slide 31 - Yes, I do want to heal you, be healed, be pure now!

Immediately, **Slide 32** the miracle occurred and the leprosy completely disappeared right there in front of everyone. It was done! The skin of this man became soft and pure like that of a young child. The wounds and the pains disappeared completely.

Slide 33 - Thank you, thank you Jesus, he cried. Glory to God! **Slide 34** I am healed, you healed me, my life will never be the same again. Now, I can go home and live with my family again! Glory to God!

Slide 35 He returned to his family and, as you can imagine, **Slide 36** he told everyone of what Jesus had done for him. So what happened next?

Well, **Slide 37** as soon as Jesus arrived in another city, people **Slide 38** ran to him, listened to him and were healed.

Slide 39 **1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!**

Slide 40 *The leper was rejected by everyone, but dared to come to Jesus.*

Slide 41 *And would you dare to come to Jesus? You can.* **Slide 42** *He will welcome you with open arms.*

Slide 43 Do you understand what compassion is? This is the question.

Slide 44 Seeing the leper, Jesus was moved with compassion. He was greatly saddened and He understood all his suffering, his sadness and his unhappiness.

He understood it so much and felt it so much that He not only brought **Slide 45** a word of consolation, and encouragement, but he acted, he did something mighty. **Slide 46** He healed the man and cleansed him. This is what compassion is.

Slide 47 Perhaps you have a friend who is alone, sad and in pain. Do you have compassion for him? **Slide 48** What could you do.....think about it. Even the little things are important when you are alone.

Slide 49 **4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!**

This story moves us. We see Jesus moved with compassion when faced with the dramatic situation of this man. It was because of His great compassion for us and for our children that he came to earth. He saw our spiritual misery and our sinful situation before God. He came and gave his life to cleanse us not from leprosy, but **Slide 50** from our sins. His compassion is limitless.

We are sometimes led to use compassion towards our children but compassion is not weakness. When they see us moved by compassion for our neighbor, their sick friend, for a frail and sickly grandmother, they understand the inner depth of this feeling **Slide 51** that makes us act.

Slide 52