

## **Mark 1:40-45, Romans 14 - "Disruptive Hospitality"**

### **Readings: Mark 1:40-45, Romans 14:1-23**

1. Read Mark 1:40-45. What are some of the ways that the people in this passage acted in socially unexpected or offensive ways?
2. People with leprosy in 1<sup>st</sup> century Israel were feared and avoided. What are some equivalent reasons that people might be feared and avoided today? Who do you find yourself avoiding or fearing?
3. Sometimes when we find ourselves avoiding someone, it's more because we are afraid of what others might think than anything else. Think of some times in the gospels when Jesus disregarded what people might think in order to show love to outcast or marginalised people. What can we learn from his example?
4. Read Romans 14. How would you summarise what Paul is saying in this passage? Why do you think he found it so important?
5. Why do you think it is hard for us to associate with people who have different convictions than we do? Another way to look at this is examining our own friend and family groups. Do we spend time with people who are like-minded in matters over which we feel strongly? Why is that?
6. Romans 14:22 says that we are to keep our convictions to ourselves and act according to them, without trying to force them on others. Why do you think we are often so eager to make our opinions known? What are some good motivations for this? What are less good motivations?
7. The Greek word *splagchnizomai*, meaning the compassion of Jesus, is used not just in Mark 1:41 but also
  - a. For the grieving (Luke 7:13 - the widow of Nain)
  - b. For the sick (Matt 20:34 - healing the blind)
  - c. For the confused and helpless (Matt 9:36 - like sheep without a shepherd)
  - d. For the hungry and tired (Matt 15:32 - they have been here 3 days)
  - e. For the beaten down (Luke 10:33 - Good Samaritan)
  - f. For those who have lost their way (Luke 15:20 - Prodigal Son)

How have you felt the compassion of Jesus?