Red Letters

The Early Words of Jesus

Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as u
r the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth,
s stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at
se they assumed he was among the other travelers. But wh
ng they started looking for him amo
hey couldn t find him they went b
arch for him there Three days later th
he Temple sitting among the religio
ng to them and asking questions. All who heard him were an
understanding and his answers. His parents didn't know wh
Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us?
and I have been frantic searching for you everywhere." "Bu

LUKE 5:12-15 (ESV)

While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him. And he charged him to tell no one, but “go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities.

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LUKE 5:12

There came a man full of leprosy.

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LUKE 5:12 (NIV)

“Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

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He does not doubt Jesus' power. He doubts Jesus' heart. "I know You can but I don't know if You want to. I know Your ability but I'm not sure about Your desire… for someone like me."

LUKE 5:13

“I am willing. Be clean.”

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LUKE 5:13

"I am willing."

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LUKE 5:13

“I am willing. Be clean.”

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Sin doesn’t just break rules; it breaks us.

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We become a collage of fig leaves.

The heart of Christianity is not “I obey; therefore I am accepted.” It is “I am accepted in Christ, therefore I obey.”

Belonging anchors becoming.

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Christians sometimes try to enjoy private forgiveness without public re-entry.

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The call on a church touched by Jesus is to become a community of courageous proximity.

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