

Hidden from View?

Matthew chapter 8 relates some of Jesus' various miraculous healings. The first recorded is that of a man with leprosy, then an incurable disease. The man was desperate. He would have been isolated from his community, an outcast, suffering, and would have had to cover himself in order to make the walk to Jesus, lest he be chased away. 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean', he stated with faith, hope and trust in the man he knew to be more than a man. Jesus was surrounded by crowds of people at this time. In so many ways the leper was hidden from view-physically and socially. But Jesus knew all about this man-as he knows all about you who read this reflection. He knew this man's needs. He knows yours. Are you hidden from view, perhaps not physically, but in other ways? Perhaps the abuse you suffered is your biggest kept secret. Perhaps you are the world's expert at controlling the expression of emotions that tell of great pain. If you don't know God you may feel even hidden from Him. If you do know Him but are in anguish because of sexual abuse, perhaps you feel He no longer remembers you. But you are never hidden from God. He knows the individual who may, in more ways than one, be hidden from the view of others. Jesus lives. To the man with leprosy, hidden from view, he saw him, touched him and said 'I am willing. Be clean'. The sickness left the man. To you whose suffering has possibly led you to search for 'something', he is here waiting for you to ask. He will cleanse and renew you so that you might live in a right relationship with God. He will then help carry the burdens which come with suffering abuse-if only you run to him, knowing that he is willing. To you who know Jesus already, can it really be that he who suffered physical and spiritual agony for you has now taken his eyes off you? No. You are not hidden. Nor is your suffering.