

## AND THE WALLS COME A TUMBLING DOWN

(Mark 1:40-45)

Intro: I had a song running through my head the other day.  
-But when I tried to find the lyrics on the internet.  
#I discovered that my version of the song.  
\*Probably made up.  
-Do you remember the song?  
#Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened,  
Ask and it shall be given,  
-And what is the last line in that chorus?  
#What I found on the internet.  
\*And the love come a tricklin' down.  
#Line in my head.  
\*Perhaps from an old Sunday School song.  
\*Or maybe just made up in mind.  
+And the walls come a tumbling down.

Even if I made it up.

-I want to use my line for the song.  
#Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened,  
Ask and it shall be given,  
And the walls come a tumbling down.

We build walls.

-Jesus makes the walls come a tumbling down.

### I. In Our Gospel Lesson.

#### A. There Was A Wall.

1. Not a physical wall.
  - a. Stone.
  - b. Brick and mortar.
2. But a wall of isolation, nonetheless.
  - a. Leper.
    - He's not even given a name.  
#In our Gospel lesson.
    - He's just a disease.  
#How impersonal is that?

- b. Leprosy.
  - Terrible disease.
    - #Loathsome.
    - #Painful.
    - #Contagious.
    - #Often incurable.
    - \*Rabbis said:
      - +Healing of leprosy.
      - +As difficult as raising the dead.
    - \*Job 18: 13 calls it:
      - +Living death.
  - Skin disease of some kind.
    - #Visible.
    - #There for all the world to see.
  - But lepers were usually not seen.
    - #They were required to live apart from the rest of society.
      - \*In leper colonies.
      - \*Off by themselves.
      - \*Outside of community.
      - \*Outside the walls.
        - +Leviticus 13: 46.
    - #They were required to warn off potential intruders.
      - \*Covering their upper lip.
      - \*Calling out:
        - + "Unclean, unclean."
        - =Leviticus 13: 45.
  - There was a wall.
    - #Invisible.
    - #But very real.

B. Jesus Made The Wall Come A Tumbling Down.

1. Leper played a roll, too.
  - a. He didn't cry out:
    - "Unclean, unclean."
    - "Stay away."
  - b. He came to Jesus.
  - c. He kneeled at Jesus' feet.
  - d. He begged Jesus.
    - "If you choose,"
    - "You can make me clean."

2. Jesus.
  - a. Didn't:
    - Flinch.
    - Draw back.
    - Run away.
    - Cry out:
      - # "Get away from me."
  - b. Jesus stretched out his hand.
    - He touched an unclean man.
  - c. Jesus said to him:
    - "I do choose."
    - "Be made clean."
3. Walls came a tumbling down.
  - a. Leper was healed.
    - Mini-resurrection, if you will.
  - b. Leper was free to go.
    - Anywhere.
    - Everywhere.
      - #Spreading the word.
      - #Proclaiming what Jesus had done.

## II. What About Us?

### A. What Are The Walls That We Build?

1. Earlier this week.
  - a. I wondered.
    - How can I preach this week?
    - What can I say?
      - #In light of everything that has been happening among us.
  - b. I wasn't sure I was up to it.
2. As the week went along.
  - a. I thought:
    - "Maybe I don't need to write a sermon."
    - "We'll have a living sermon."
  - b. I'd like to invite Pam and Doris to come up here and join me.
    - With Doris.
      - #I'm not sure there ever was a wall between us.
      - \*As much as some people believed there was a wall.
      - #But real or imagined.
      - \*Whatever roll I have played.
        - + In building the wall.
        - + In contributing to the perception of a wall.
      - \*I am sorry.
      - #And the walls come a tumbling down.

- With Pam.
- #I know there was a wall.
- \*It was a wall of our making.
- +Her making.
- +My making.
- \*For my part in building the wall.
- +I am so sorry.
- #And the walls come a tumbling down.

B. Jesus Makes The Walls Come Tumbling Down.

1. We don't make that happen.
  - a. Not really.
  - b. Our tool of choice.
    - Battering ram.
    - Sledge hammer.
    - #That would never work with Pam.
    - #That would never work with me.
  - c. I had long since given up this relationship to God.
  - d. Pam believed that it would take a miracle.
    - For us ever to be together again.
2. Jesus has chosen.
  - a. To stretch out his hand.
    - As he stretched it out to the leper.
  - b. To reach over the wall.
  - c. To touch what is:
    - Unclean.
    - Unholy.
  - d. To make the walls come tumbling down.
    - Walls we erect between:
      - #Ourselves and others.
      - #Ourselves and our God.

III. There Is A Price To Be Paid For The Walls To Come A Tumbling Down.

A. Jesus Paid The Price With The Leper.

1. To touch a leper was to make one's self unclean.
  - a. But Jesus doesn't become unclean.
  - b. Instead the leper becomes clean.
2. But Jesus is treated as one who is unclean.
  - a. He's no longer able to go into a town openly.
  - b. He's got to stay out in the country.
    - Outside the walls.
    - Treated like a leper.
    - #Yet people are drawn to him.

B. Jesus Paid The Price For Our Walls.

1. Walled off.
  - a. By a posse.
    - In the Garden of Gethsemane.
  - b. In a courtroom.
    - In front of the Sanhedrin.
      - #Religious council.
    - Accused of blasphemy.
      - #Speaking against God.
  - c. In front of Pilate.
    - Roman governor.
    - Accused of insurrection.
      - #Acting against the state.
  - d. On a cross.
    - Condemned like a common criminal.
  - e. In a grave.
    - You can't get any more walled off than that.
2. But even that wall came a tumbling down.
  - a. On Easter morning.
    - Resurrection.
    - Open tomb.
  - b. Walls came a tumbling down.
    - For Jesus.
    - For us.
      - #So that we are free to come to this altar.
        - \*To be fed with:
          - +Body.
          - +Blood.
            - =Of the one who makes the walls between:
              - God and us.
            - =Come a tumbling down.
      - #So that we are free to go.
        - \*Anywhere.
        - \*Everywhere.
          - +Spreading the word.
          - +Telling the story of what Jesus has done.

Concl: What story will you tell this week?

-When you talk with one another.

#Let it be the story:

\*Of the walls that come a tumbling down.



