

Luke 5 pt 2

Luke 5:12-16

¹² While He was in one of the cities, behold, *there was* a man covered with leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." ¹³ And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately the leprosy left him. ¹⁴ And He ordered him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, just as Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." ¹⁵ But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear *Him* and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus Himself would *often* slip away to the wilderness and pray.

1. Last time in Luke 5, we looked at the call of the disciples
 - a. How
 - b. Why
 - c. What

2. This passage shows Jesus' healing virtue & restoration

I. The Cry

II. The Compassion

III. The Command

IV. The Consistency

I. The Cry - of the leper who saw Jesus

1. He fell on his face and implored Him saying, "Lord, if you are willing, You can make me clean."
2. None of the children of Israel had leprosy when they left Egypt
3. What happened to a nation that had no disease during the days of Moses?
 - a. Mixing of the multitudes, cultures and idolatry brought diseases

- b. Just as the case with us, man was originally free from any form of sin, but via wrong choices, sin entered our lives and we are exactly like this leper
- 4. In the Bible, leprosy is a dreaded disease that is a picture of sin.
 - a. Very contagious & there was no cure
- 5. It may begin with the loss of all sensation in some part of the body;
 - a. the nerve trunks are affected;
 - b. the muscles waste away;
 - c. Tendons contract until the hands are like claws.
 - d. Ulceration of the hands and feet.
 - e. Then the progressive loss of fingers and toes, until in the end a whole hand or a whole foot may drop off.
 - f. The duration of that kind of leprosy is anything from twenty to thirty years.
 - g. It is a terrible progressive death where a man dies slowly. (**Cole**)
- 6. Lepers were treated "as if they were, in effect, dead men" (**Josephus**)
 - a. The Mosaic Law prescribed that the person be cut off from society, including his family.
 - b. He had to wear torn clothing, have his head uncovered, cover his lips and shout "Unclean! Unclean!" to warn others to keep their distance (Lev. 13:45).
 - c. Luke tells us that this man was full of leprosy (Luke 5:12).
 - i. His disease was in advanced stages.
 - d. This is a picture of the devastating nature of sin:
- 7. **Sin causes distance and breakdown of relationships.**
 - a. Our **relationship** with God
 - i. Sin separates us from God
 - ii. Not because God walked away, because we walked away

- iii. **Habakuk 1:13** *You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness*
- iv. This is a major problem because God is the source of life
- v. In Him we live, move & have our being...

b. Our **relationship** with others

- i. The leper had to live separately from his family and friends.
- ii. He could never feel the warm, caring touch of his wife.
- iii. He could not hold his children or grandchildren on his lap or feel their arms around his neck.
- iv. He could not share meals with his family or be present to enjoy a moment of laughter.
- v. In the same way, sin causes strain and often a complete rupture of human relationships. (**Cole**)
- vi. Those who are plagued by sin today are in many ways numb to the effects of sin and no longer feel the consequences, yet down inside is the unmistakable feeling of isolation and separation from God and true, genuine fellowship with man.

8. **It also caused emotional pain**

- a. The internal pain of being isolated was horrible.
- b. The hope of every leper was that the disease would burn itself out and go,
- c. and so he was looking at himself every day for any signs of the sores shrinking and drying up.
- d. He was driven to examine himself, and to look at himself.
- e. The dying man forced to look at his own dying [condition]!
- f. ... He had no one else to look to, and so he looked at himself.

- g. He carried each day a sense of worthlessness and despair (**Thomas**)
- 9. **Sin grows progressively worse, ending in spiritual death.**
 - a. Just as leprosy grew progressively worse until the leper died, so with sin.
 - b. If it is not cleansed by Jesus Christ, the sinner faces eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14-15).
- 10. This leper was desperate to approach Jesus, falling on his knees before Him, begging, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."
- 11. He broke protocol and ignored the jeers of the crowd
- 12. He risked his life as he would have been stoned if he wasn't healed
- 13. His need for a savior was more important than anything or anyone

II. **The Compassion** - Of Jesus who touched him

- 1. **Compassion of Jesus does 2 things**
 - a. **Touches** the man to new life (resurrection life)
 - i. **He brought him back from the dead**
 - 1. Jesus didn't have to touch him**
 - 2. But the leper had a need deeper than his prayer**
 - ii. Because the leper came, he was healed
 - 1. All were welcome at Jesus' feet**
 - b. **Restores** to him all that was taken away when he acquired leprosy
 - i. His relationships are restored
 - ii. Self respect & Dignity (I'm not less or more than anyone else)

iii. **Allows** the man to see himself through the eyes of God

iv. He always looked at himself through his own lens, now through Christ's lens

v. **Jesus always goes beyond what we ask. Zeccheus, Mary and Martha**

c. The touch of Jesus was an outward and visible sign of the inward invisible compassion in the heart of the Lord (**Thomas**)

2. This leper shows us the only hope for us as spiritual lepers:

3. "the one who comes to Me, I will certainly not cast out" (John 6:37).

4. The cleansing that Jesus offers is not just cosmetic.

a. It cleanses the defiled conscience, the inner man.

b. Just as this leper was instantly and totally healed, so the sinner who trusts in Christ is instantly and totally cleansed, reconciled completely with God.

5. Just as Jesus touched the leper, Jesus wants to touch us as well.

6. We think Jesus would be repelled by the gross sight & smell of our sin

a. No, Jesus can handle it.

7. Others may say, "Touch me Lord, but don't really change me".

8. It's vanity to seek His touch without any desire to be changed.

a. Jesus always changes who He touches

III. **The Command** - of our Lord

1. **Show yourself to the priest** - Why?

a. to get back everything you lost

b. Your family

c. Your property

- d. Your inheritance
 - e. Your land
 - f. Your place in society
 - g. Your place in the temple
 - h. Your right to celebrate the feasts
2. **Make an offering of cleansing** - to witness the death & resurrection of (Lev 14)
 3. Understand that it's the shed blood of Jesus that paid the price for all sins
 4. It's the resurrection that confirms the offering is accepted
 5. You are now clean
 6. **This is not just for you**
 - a. This miracle is a testimony to the priests and for all who are willing to see
 - b. Your miracle is not just for you

IV. **The Consistency** of our Lord as He withdrew often and prayed

1. Jesus often withdrew to pray
2. Prayer didn't just happen if time was left over
3. The Son of God is showing us that the secret to living victoriously in God's perfect will is to spend time with the Father
4. **John Bunyan** He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day.
5. But it's more than just receiving from The Father
6. Prayer is more about fellowship with God in mutual exchange

7. It's how a friend longs to be with his friend
8. If Jesus needed to pray often, how much more do we?