

Luke 5:12-26

We have been walking through Luke's gospel since early December! If you have missed it, you can go back and catch up online. I hope we are getting a better understanding of Jesus as we learn together. In our text today, we are going to see Jesus display His ability to:

1. Cleanse
2. Forgive
3. And Heal

Who here doesn't need one of those 3 things? Cleansing, forgiving, and/or healing?!

READ—Indeed they witnessed remarkable things. I hope that we can look at 3 remarkable things from this passage this morning....if not we will have to look at part one today and finish it up next week.

I. Jesus Cleanses v12-19

12 While He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man covered with leprosy;

1. There are several types of leprosy, but we know it in its simplest form was a skin disease
 - a. Lepers would often lose feeling in their limbs
 - b. There are accounts of mice and rats eating away at their flesh in the night in their sleep.
 - c. It was a horrible disease
2. This disease spread until the individual died from the leprosy
3. This man was not just a leper. He was covered with leprosy.
 - a. It was a serious case
 - b. He was most likely near death and out of hope.

and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

1. He was out of hope, but he happened to see Jesus! He fell on his face and begged Him, if You are willing, please make me clean.
2. Make me clean...
 - a. you have to understand that at the first sign of leprosy this man would have been quarantined
 - b. He would have been forced to cry out "unclean" anytime he came near to people or people came near to him.
 - c. He is unclean and could never have entered the temple of God...he could not express his worship like other Jews.
 - d. He was untouchable!
 - e. People would respond to lepers like you would respond if someone walked in this room with the coronavirus.
3. He say's 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."

Jesus Cleanses.

1. This leper's leprosy and uncleanness is just a picture of our sin and uncleanness

- a. It covered him...and we are completely stained with sin!
- b. Romans 3:9-18
- c. Isaiah 64:6 *For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.*
- d. We are radically corrupt, ruined, and unclean.

2. He could do nothing to correct his problem

- a. We can do nothing to correct the problem God has with us over our sin
- b. Jeremiah 13:23 *Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.*

3. But Jesus is more than willing to cleanse!

There were 3 amazing surprises

1. Jesus touched him!
 - a. Jesus is not afraid to touch the unclean.
 - b. How unclean are you this morning?
 - c. How much have you sinned and how far have you fallen short of the standard of God?
 - d. If Jesus would touch this man in spite of his physical leprosy, He can touch you this morning in spite of your spiritual leprosy!
2. Jesus was willing.
 - a. Jesus not only will touch you. He will cleanse you.
 - b. And he is willing.
 - c. 1 Timothy 2:4 *who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*
 - d. Jesus wants to cleanse you this morning.
 1. Whoever you are
 2. wherever you are from
 3. whatever you have done.
 - e. He said to the leper "I am willing." And the leprosy left.

4. Maybe this morning, you need to do what the needy leper does

- a. **He saw Jesus:** See Jesus this morning: Gospel.
- b. **He fell facedown:** See your sin and hopelessness and fall before Him.
- c. **He begged Him as Lord:** Call on His Name

Romans 10:9-13 *if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."*

II. Jesus Forgives v15-20

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. 17 One day He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing. 18 And some men were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him.

1. These men are serious about getting their friend to Jesus
 - a. He was paralyzed so he could not get himself there
 - b. He was hopeless and helpless
 - c. So, his friends pick him up and bring him to Jesus
2. Some of you need to pick up your friends and bring them to Jesus!

19 But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.

1. They get him to the place where Jesus was, but they had no way to get him in!
2. What do they do? The unthinkable.
3. They do whatever is necessary! (would to God that every lost person we identify this morning have a friend this determined to get them to Jesus!)
4. Who's Your One?

20 Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you."

We see 2 things here that give us subtle hints

1. Jesus says, your sins are forgiven you.
 - a. That shows us that there was something more serious in this man's life than his infirmity.
 - b. This man's sins are more debilitating than his paralysis.
2. He needed forgiveness first and foremost
 - a. Ephesians 2:1-9...we are dead!
 - b. Maybe his physical infirmity was due to his spiritual infirmity.
2. He saw "their faith."
 - a. Did this mean that Jesus saw the faith of his friends and forgave his sins based on their faith?
 - b. I don't believe so because we do not see that anywhere else in the Word.
 - c. Their faith most likely refers to the paralytic's faith and his friends faith.

Here is a man who has apparently sinned in some way that has resulted in paralysis

1. He is paralyzed and can do nothing
2. None of that mattered: Jesus forgave Him!
3. Don't think for a moment that you have to get you life together....Like the paralytic, you can't
4. Christ, according to HIS rich mercy, forgives!

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

Praise the Lord!
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

III. Jesus Heals v21-26

21 *The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?"*

1. The scribes and Pharisees...as concerned as they were with the letter of the law and with maintaining their doctrinal standards, automatically turn Jesus off
2. They think to themselves, "did he just act like he forgave this man's sins?"

22 *But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? 23 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?"*

1. Isn't that interesting...Jesus answers them out loud
2. I bet they all looked around wondering, was I reasoning out loud? How did He hear me??

24 *But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"--He said to the paralytic--"I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home." 25 Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. 26 They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."*

1. Leprosy was a result of sin...if not the leper's personal sin, Adam's sin.
2. Paralysis was a result of sin...seemingly a result of his own personal sin.
3. Jesus cleansed yes....Jesus forgave yes....but Jesus also healed!

Our sin carries with it consequences does it not? But thank God that Jesus heals!

Joel 2:25-26 *"Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. 26 "You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame.*

Conclusion:

I can almost guaranteed you this morning that everyone of us needs to be cleansed, forgiven, or healed... or all of the above. Jesus is willing! Respond