

~THE BOOK OF LUKE~
~Chapter 5~

Looking At Luke 5:12-26:

A) Lk. 5:12-16 (Mk. 1:40-45) is the story of Jesus cleansing a leper.

- We do not know whether Jesus performed this miracle on the Sabbath, but in many cases He did. This was probably another day of the week. The Sabbath is not mentioned.
- The word “leprosy” was used to describe any type of skin disease or problem (see Lev. 13). In the case here, this man had what we would identify in our minds as leprosy, and it was a serious case. Note the word “full” (covered) in vs. 12 and we get that picture.
- In vs. 12 we see his belief in the fact that Jesus could heal him. He made no demands on Jesus but humbly asked for help from the Lord. The term “Lord” here is more than simply a title of respect. This leper knew Christ was not some average guy.
- He possibly had tried everything else and was without hope. **How do we respond when people with real needs come to us or how should we respond? How do we separate real needs from someone trying to take advantage of our willingness to help? Any ideas?**

Here are some things to consider when someone had leprosy:

1) They were cast out of society and lived among other lepers. As a Jew this would be devastating. You could not worship at the synagogue or temple which was a major part of your social life. Your family stayed away from you. You lost most contact with others except for those who were afflicted like you. Christians rally to help those who are hurting and sick. In the ancient world that was not always the case.

2) When they were out in public they had to call out “unclean” and stay away from people. Note that this man wanted to be healed and he broke this “rule” and approached Jesus.

3) There is some evidence from history that the Pharisees and others would throw rocks at lepers to keep them away from people if they saw them.

The following quote from **Chuck Swindoll** gives us an idea of what the man with leprosy may have been thinking,

“The leper didn’t doubt Jesus’ ability; however, past experience with people—especially religious authorities—caused him to doubt the Lord’s willingness to cleanse him. He asked for help with a sense of “I don’t blame You, either way.” He expected nothing. He didn’t bargain with God or try to justify his condition. He merely presented his need to the Lord and remained open to receive whatever Jesus might offer.”

- In vs. 13 Jesus did what no one would do in that day. He touched the leper and healed Him instantly. Christ could have spoken the word and cured him. By touching this man, it made Jesus ceremonially unclean in the eyes of the religious leaders and others. **Any thoughts on why Jesus chose to touch this man? Should we expect if God is going to**

heal someone that it be done instantly or does it happen over time and what happened when Jesus healed someone?

- Jesus tells the man to not share what has happened (**vs. 14**). I do not think Christ wanted a circus environment. Plus, by sending the man to the priest, He showed respect for the law, and it would show God at work to the religious leaders. This would also allow him to be restored to his family. See **Lev. 14:1-32**.
- Word got out (**vs. 15; Mk. 2:45**) and the crowds gathered to be healed. They wanted healing but not necessarily salvation. Jesus had to get away to rest, recharge and pray (**vs. 16**).

B) Lk. 5:17-26 (Mk. 2:1-12) we see Jesus healing a paralyzed man and forgiving his sins.

- In **vs. 17**, we read that Jesus was teaching and the Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there in large number, and Jesus was healing. The sad thing is that these religious elite saw miracles and still refused to believe.
- Mark tells us this event took place in Capernaum and some of the religious leaders had travelled from Jerusalem (85 miles or so) with the obvious intent to trap Jesus.
- Some men bring a paralyzed man to see Jesus and they cannot get in, so they go up to the roof, removing portions of the roof to lower the man down (**vss. 18-19**). Remember that in the sight of the religious leaders his condition was because of sin.
- Note **vs. 20**. Jesus says because of “their faith” this man is going to be made well. **Whose faith do you think Jesus meant here? The ones lowering the man, or them and the paralyzed man.**
- In **vs. 20** Jesus says this man’s sins are forgiven. This could indicate that his illness was connected to sin. We are all born sinners in need of help. **Why do we think Jesus chose to use those words if the illness was not sin related?**
- In **vs. 21** the religious leaders accuse Jesus of blasphemy. This was a serious accusation that the religious leaders leveled at Christ. By forgiving sins, Jesus did what only God could do. Note the Pharisees were most likely talking among themselves or just thinking about what Jesus had just done, and Christ knew what was on their minds even if He did not hear them discussing things.
- In **vss. 22-23** Jesus challenges the religious elite with a question. We see Jesus as Divine here in **vs. 22** as He “perceived their thoughts.” Anyone can say that someone’s sins are forgiven. So, Jesus also did a visible sign as well to show His power. Christ not only forgave this man, but He healed him as well.
- **Vs. 24** shows the Deity of Christ. He forgives sin, He heals. He is clear – Christ can forgive sins; thus, He is God. He challenges the religious leader’s ideas about Him head-on. His public ministry is growing, and the religious elite do not like it.
- The title “Son of Man” shows both the humanity of Christ and His Deity (**Dan. 7**). Christ experienced pain on the cross, hunger, etc., but He was God in the flesh. “Son of Man” is a title of Deity.
- In **vs. 25** the man is healed and shows that he was by getting up from being paralyzed and people were in awe and glorified God (**vs. 26**). **Share some experiences that you have had with people who talk about Jesus as a “Good Teacher” but do not want to**

accept Him as Lord and Savior. What reasons did they give and how did they view Him?