

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

February 6, 2019

The Gospel of Luke

Healing of a Leper and a Man with a Palsy

Topics – Luke 5; healing a leper; Leprosy; healing a man with a palsy

Text – Luke 5:12 - 26

Introduction

In our last message, we looked into the account of Jesus preaching to the people from Peter's boat, and then prompting Peter to go back out fishing after toiling all night and catching nothing. Peter reluctantly agrees, and lets down a single net, which breaks because of the great draught of fishes that are caught. The events that follow in Luke five follow chronologically. There is nothing recorded in the other gospel accounts that happen in between Luke 5:11 and 12. The events that we will examine tonight are also found in Matthew 8:2 – 4; 9:2 – 8; and also in Mark 1:40 – 2:12.

I Jesus Cleanses a Leper (vs. 12 – 15)

V. 12 – Dr. Luke tells us that the man was full of leprosy. This was not just a small case. This man had leprosy bad, and apparently he had it for a long time. Leprosy in the Bible is a picture or type of sin.

Notice that this man recognized the power of God to heal, but He also understood that it was according to Jesus' will. It's not a question of whether God can, it's a question of whether God will.

V. 13 – Notice that Jesus was not only willing to heal the man, he was willing to touch the man. Mark tells us that he touched him because of His compassion. This man had not been touched, or had not even been near another non-leprous human in a long time.

When it was discovered that a person had leprosy (today Hansen's Disease), they were banished to live outside of the city, away from family and friends. If anybody approached them they would have to cry out, "unclean, unclean" so as to warn people to stay away from their contagious disease.

"And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be."

(Leviticus 13:45-46)

Vs. 14 – 15 – The man who was healed was commanded to not tell anyone what happened to him, but only go to the priest and show him his clear skin, and then give the offering prescribed by the Law. (See Leviticus 13)

It is interesting that this man was commanded not to say anything, yet he apparently told everybody about Jesus. We are commanded to tell everybody; yet, we keep our mouths closed.

II Jesus Communes with His Father (v. 16)

Immediately following the healing of the leper, and before he helps the man who is sick of the palsy, he takes time to commune with His Father. If God, the Son, took time to pray, should not God's people take time to pray.

"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" (Luke 18:1)

"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." (Psalm 55:17)

While we ought to pray all of the time about everything, there also should be secluded, scheduled, and structured times when we commune with God. Jesus often got away from everyone in order to commune with his Father.

"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." (Luke 6:12)

"And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray." (Mark 6:45-46)

Jesus commands us to get alone with Him (and the Father) to pray. (See Matthew 6:5-13)

"Prayer girds human weakness with divine strength, turns human folly into heavenly wisdom, and gives to troubled mortals the peace of God. We know not what prayer can do." Charles Spurgeon

"Praying gives sense, brings wisdom, and broadens and strengthens the mind. The prayer closet is a perfect schoolteacher and schoolhouse for the preacher. Thought is not only brightened and clarified in prayer, but thought is born in prayer." E. M. Bounds

Jesus was busy, but Jesus took time to do that which was most important – spend time with His Father.

III Jesus Cures a Man with Palsy (vs. 17 – 26)

Mark tells us that this event took place in Capernaum. Mark also tells us that there were four that carried this man with the palsy. Mark also tells us that the roof had to be broken in order for the man to be let down.

This is one of the most incredible stories in all of Scripture.

Jesus was preaching in the city of Capernaum early in his earthly ministry. The house where Jesus is speaking is very crowded with all kinds of people:

There were people there who needed to be healed. They may not have been religious people, but they had some kind of a need.

There were people there who just wanted to hear what He had to say. They had already recognized that Jesus was the Son of God, and they were just there to be near Him – to hear Him preach and teach some of the marvelous, life-changing principles that they had already heard, but wanted to hear more of.

There were also some people that were skeptical – people whose hearts were hard: people who did not believe that Jesus was who He claimed to be.

In this church service today there are also people present for many different reasons. You may be here because you love the Lord, and you are here because He told you in His word not to forsake the assembling of yourselves together. You love to come to church. You love to open the Bible, and be challenged and instructed by the Word of God. You may not even belong to this particular church, but are visiting from another church. You are in a good place.

You may be here, like the man who had the palsy in our text, and you also have a great need in your life: it may be a physical need, it may be financial pressure, it may be a family problem; but you are here today because you heard somewhere that Jesus can help you. You are also in a good place.

You could be like the Pharisees and Scribes that were present. You are skeptical: not at all convinced that this Jesus stuff is all what these people claim it to be. You, too, are in a good place. God may use what you hear today to soften your heart and bring you a little bit closer to a relationship with Him.

In our text today we see four men who had a friend that was in great need. They knew that Jesus could help their friend. The only problem was that they could not get near him, because there were too many people crowding around him. The front door was filled with people, and as they went around to check a back door, they noticed that every window had people crowding around it to hear what Jesus was saying. These men were not about to give up. They would find a way to bring their friend to Jesus. Finally, they decide to go up on the roof, and to pull apart the material that protected the house from the weather. Once they had the roof uncovered, they let the man down by ropes to where the Lord could help Him.

Incredible – they literally ripped open the roof of another man’s house in order to bring the man to Jesus; and that is similar to what we are doing this week. We are doing everything that we can think of in order to get children and adults – our family members and neighbors to the place where they can receive help from Jesus.

Let’s take a closer look at this passage, and see what had to happen in order for this great miracle of healing to take place, and the even greater miracle of having all of your sins forgiven.

How are people going to come to the Savior today to have their sins forgiven?

I Someone Has To Care (vs. 17 – 19)

Talk about the 4 men who cared enough to carry this man to where Jesus was ministering and break through the roof of the house so that they could bring the guy to where Jesus was.

What are you willing to do in order to bring someone to the Saviour?

How much are you willing to sacrifice in order that someone will be saved?

Are you willing to give your time?

Are you willing to give your treasure?

Are you willing to use your talents?

Illustrate – The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25 – 37)

Illustrate – The people at Super One who cared about my family

Illustrate – A Kid Who Cared

One day, when I was a freshman in high school,

I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school.

His name was Kyle.

It looked like he was carrying all of his books.

I thought to myself, 'Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday?

He must really be a nerd.'

I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him.

They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt.

His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him...

He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes .

My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye.

As I handed him his glasses, I said, 'Those guys are jerks.'

They really should get lives.

'He looked at me and said, 'Hey thanks!'

There was a big smile on his face.

It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived.

As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before.

He said he had gone to private school before now.

I would have never hung out with a private school kid before.

We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books.

He turned out to be a pretty cool kid.

I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends .

He said yes.

We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again.

I stopped him and said, 'Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!

'He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends.

When we were seniors we began to think about college.

Kyle decided on Georgetown and I was going to Duke.

I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem.

He was going to be a doctor and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was valedictorian of our class.

I teased him all the time about being a nerd.

He had to prepare a speech for graduation.

I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak .

Graduation day, I saw Kyle.

He looked great.

He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school.

He filled out and actually looked good in glasses.

He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him.

Boy, sometimes I was jealous!

Today was one of those days.

I could see that he was nervous about his speech.

So, I smacked him on the back and said,

'Hey, big guy, you'll be great!'

He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled....

'Thanks,' he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began ...

'Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years.

Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends....

I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them.

I am going to tell you a story.'

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the first day we met.

He had planned to kill himself over the weekend.

He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home.

He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile.

'Thankfully, I was saved.

My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable.'

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment.

I saw his Mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile.

Not until that moment did I realize it's depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions.

With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse.

God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way.

Look for God in others.

"And of some have compassion, making a difference:" (Jude 22)

The four men in our text did everything in their power to truly be a friend to the man with the palsy. They let nothing stop them from bringing this man to Jesus.

Notice v. 5 "when Jesus saw their faith". Jesus was impressed with 2 things about these four men:

1 They had faith in Him and His ability to help their friend. Do you believe that Jesus can help your friends?

2 They had love in their hearts for somebody else. They had compassion – they cared. Do you care?

But beware, whenever someone cares:

II Someone Will Be Critical (v. 21)

The Scribes and Pharisees began to murmur. That is what they do best. They don't do anything to help; they just criticize those who are doing something.

What category do you fall in? Are you someone who tries to do something to help; or are you the one who gripes and complains about those that are doing something?

If you don't care, don't criticize.

If you're not going to be part of the solution; don't add to the problem by being critical.

The devil puts the critics there to discourage those of you who care. Don't let the devil win by yielding to their criticism. You just keep doing something to be a blessing to somebody else because you care.

But be encouraged, even if they criticize, as long as you care there will be some people who will be cured.

III Someone will be cured. (Vs. 20; 22 - 26)

Notice Jesus didn't yield to the criticism; he responded to those who cared, because he cares too. He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance". He cures all of those who come to him in faith. Today, He may not cure them physically; but He will cure their sin.

Conclusion

1 Message to the soul winner – don't stop caring.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." - (Psalm 126:5)

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." - (Psalm 126:6)

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - (Galatians 6:9)

Don't stop: caring; loving people; inviting them to church; being a lighthouse in front of your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

God will bring the harvest – in his time.

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;" - (Matthew 9:37)

Jesus said, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." - (Luke 14:23)

2 Message to the Scribes and Pharisees (the critics)

Learn to care. Your attitude is wrong.

Illustrate – Lady at the Christian Bible Church that didn't like the "scummers" coming from Seaside.

Get in or get out of the way. If you are not going to be part of the solution – don't add to the problem, either.

"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in." - (Matthew 23:13)

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them." (Matthew 19:13)

Little children get saved.

Little children who get saved early are still saved as adults.

Little children are easier to lead to Christ than adults are.

Little children grow up and serve and support the church.

Illustrate – Why do we do the crazy things that we do here at the church, like VBS – because we want to see children saved. Why do we run the busses? Why do we have Kid's Club?

3 Message to the Sinner

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." - (Matthew 11:28)

Jesus loves you – “for God so loved...”

Jesus died on the cross to pay your sin debt.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." - (Romans 5:8)

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." - (Romans 6:23)

Jesus desires to save you.

Acknowledge Your Sin – Repent – Place your faith in the Saviour



JESUS' MINISTRY IN GALILEE

- City
- ⊙ Jesus' Galilean headquarters
- ← Jesus preaches in synagogue in Nazareth (*Luke 4:16ff*)
- ← Jesus heals a young man in Lower Galilee (*Luke 7:11ff*)
- ← Jesus returns from Jerusalem and heals a child from Cana (*John 4:46ff*)
- Jesus preaches around Caesarea-Philippi (*Matthew 16:13ff*)
- Jesus crosses Sea of Galilee to the country of the Gergesenes (*Luke 8:26ff*)
- Jesus journeys into the regions of Tyre and Sidon (*Matthew 15:21ff*)
- Jesus preaches in the region of the Decapolis (*Mark 7:31ff*)
- Jesus performs wonders near Bethsaida (*Matthew 14:13ff*)