

LUKE Lesson 11

Chapter 5:12-26

17 August 2018

JESUS HEALS A LEPER (12-14)

What this story teaches:

1. **Leprosy (as sin) is all-consuming (12) and incurable (1 Kings 5:7).**
 - a. See Leviticus 13 for instructions about diagnosing leprosy.
2. **The importance of humility (12).** See James 4:6.
 - a. When you come to Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing, it is a humbling experience admitting that you're a sinner in need of a Savior.
3. **Jesus cleanses leprosy (a picture of sin) instantly and completely (13).**
 - a. There is no record of any Israelite ever being healed of leprosy and consulting the priest.
 - b. Naaman the Syrian was cleansed of leprosy to reveal that God would one day turn to the Gentiles and cleanse them of their sins (2 Kings 5, Luke 4:27).
 - c. The Old Testament saints were forgiven, but not cleared of their sins (Exodus 34:7).
4. **The Mosaic Law was observed (14, Mt 5:17).** This is the first time Leviticus 14 needed to be obeyed.
 - a. No man could cure leprosy. Only Jesus could do it because He is God. Only Jesus can cleanse you of your sins and make you whole.
 - b. If you've been cleansed of your sins, the best way to show the Lord your appreciation is to live a life of obedience to His commands. See 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Gal. 2:20, Col. 3:3.

JESUS HEALS THE MULTITUDES (Vss 15-17)

1. Jesus taught and healed the multitudes (15).
2. Jesus prayed alone in the wilderness (16).
3. Jesus healed Pharisees and Lawyers (17).
 - a. When these people turned against Him (Lk 19:47, 20:19, 22:2, Mt 21:46), He didn't quit; He finished His course; He proceeded to the cross.
 - b. If you follow Jesus, you'll learn to take abuse from the people you're trying to help (2 Cor 12:15).

JESUS HEALS THE PARALYZED MAN (Vss 18-26)

1. This man is a picture of any lost man. His ailment affects his ability to walk (See Lev. 26:21).
2. He has friends who know the importance of getting him to Jesus by any means (18-19).

- a. Believers ought to use whatever legitimate means that are available to them to bring people to Jesus. (Gospel tracts, house-to-house visitation, street preaching, bus ministry, church invitations, Gospel T-shirts, bumper stickers, yard signs, etc.).
 - b. It's worth taking a chance of offending people if it results in a friend getting saved.
3. The physical healing was not dependent upon the sick man having faith (vs 20). Jesus was impressed with the faith of his four friends.
 - a. When we witness for Jesus, do we really believe Jesus is going to save somebody? We need to put away a defeated, unbelieving attitude and have faith that Jesus is still saving people today.
 - i. How many people will get to Jesus because of your faith? There's spiritual power in faith. Go out and tell people about Jesus, expecting Him to give the victory!
4. Jesus forgave the man's sins (20).
 - a. All sins are against God (Gen 39:9, 1 Sam 12:13, 23, Psa 51:4) so, only God can forgive sins.
 - b. Forgiveness of sins came first because that's more important than physical healing.
5. The scribes and Pharisees knew Jesus was claiming to be God when he forgave the man's sins (21).
6. Jesus knew the thoughts of the religious men and proved to them that He had the power to forgive sins (22-25). When the Lord forgives your sins, you don't need to keep going back again and again for forgiveness (Heb 10:11-12).
7. The people were amazed at the "strange things" they saw that day (26).
 - a. When you follow the Lord, you'll have some experiences that can't be explained apart from the miraculous intervening of the Lord in your life.
 - b. Don't be a skeptic when somebody tells you about a wonderful thing Jesus did for them.

SUMMARY

1. Salvation of an individual is the fruit of the combined efforts of more than one Christian (1 Cor 3:6).
 - a. If you can't get through to a friend or family member, pray that God will send someone who can (yes, even if God sends somebody from a church you wouldn't support). The salvation of a precious soul is what is important.
2. A big church is not a better church. Large congregations can hinder the work of the Lord because most of them are carnal.
3. Nobody said it would be easy to bring a soul to Jesus. You'll suffer inconvenience, criticism, and monetary costs.
4. Salvation is more important than healing. (Psalm 103:3).
5. Faith was substantial and evident. The bed carried the man; now the man carries the bed. Once sin carried you around; now you have dominion over sin (Rom 6:12-14), thanks to Jesus and His forgiveness.