

January 3: Unclean, Broken and Sinful...and Healed!

Luke Chapter 5: 12-39

There is so much in this section that we can't really unpack it all in one CGH session. Today we will discuss the two instances of healing mentioned in this passage, and what it means to be healed in the physical and spiritual sense. Jesus has the power to heal us and make us whole, even in the direst circumstances. As we look at these passages, we might think about healing, why we need it, what it is, and what it means, not only from our perspective but from Jesus' point of view.

What do we think about when we think of healing?

Let's look at the story of Jesus healing a leper in Luke 5:12-16

12 While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. [b] And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." 13 And Jesus[c] stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. 14 And he charged him to tell no one, but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them." 15 But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. 16 But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

Discussion Questions:

What was the definition of "leprosy" in those times?

What is the significance of "unclean" in that culture?

How might someone become "clean" again?

What is the significance of the interaction here with Jesus?

Summary: This passage demonstrates that the imperfections that make us unclean before the Lord set us apart from His love. Leviticus chapters 13 and 14 set out the rules for managing these issues and for restoring "cleanliness." In Jesus, we are restored by His grace through faith. We don't need the rules and procedures-we need only trust in Him

Jesus heals a paralytic...

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. 20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." 21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you

thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Discussion Questions:

This is the first mention of the "Pharisees and teachers of the law" in the book of Luke. What is the significance of their presence here?

What is the significance of the way the paralyzed man entered the building?

What does Jesus' initial response tell us about how He looks at "sickness" and "healing"?

What does the response of the Pharisees tell us about their mindset?

(Additional question: Do you think the Pharisees were "bad guys?")

What kind of healing takes place in this story? Is there more than one kind? Which is the most significant?

Jesus wants to heal us, both physically and even more importantly spiritually. Physical healing is temporal, but spiritual healing is eternal. In both of these examples, healing occurs when we have faith in the power of God to heal and allow him to make us clean again. With the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus we can come to him for healing not the Pharisaic rituals. As Christ tells us in these verses:

31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

³⁶ He told them this parable: "No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. ³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸ No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.

Jesus gives us a new way to see him and to approach him. We can come to him directly and be healed.