

Luke
See Jesus
The Power to Forgive and Make Clean
Luke 5:12-26

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / February 21, 2021

I. Jesus Wants to Solve Your Biggest Problem

The paralytic man didn't come to Jesus to have his sins forgiven. It's not what he and his friends thought was his biggest problem, but it's what Jesus addressed first.

Luke 5:23-24 “Which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven you,” or to say, “Rise and walk”? ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’ — He said to the man who was paralyzed— ‘I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.’”

Jesus only healed people physically to prove He had the authority to solve our bigger problem – the sin problem that separates us from a holy God.

John 19:30 “...It is finished...”

II. Jesus Wants to Cleanse Your Conscience and Change How You See Yourself

Luke 5:13 “And Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, ‘I will; be clean.’”

In that day, lepers were not just physically sick. They were social, emotional, and economic outcasts of the lowest order. They were isolated and cut off from everyone, with a constant awareness of being unclean, unacceptable, untouchable, and unwanted.

When lepers did get near anyone, they were required to hold one hand over their mouth and to cry out over and over “Unclean!” When you do that long enough, day after day, you start to believe it about yourself.

“The leper is sick in mind as well as body. For some reason there is an attitude to leprosy different from the attitude to any other disfiguring disease. It is associated with shame and horror, and carries, in some mysterious way, a sense of guilt...shunned and despised, frequently do lepers consider taking their own lives and some do.”

~ Dr. A.B. MacDonald

Jesus – unlike everyone else in this man's world – did not run from him, but moved towards him, stretched out His hand, and touched him as He said, “be clean!”

Far more than this man's skin was made clean and redeemed. In that moment, the horror and shame that had twisted and disfigured how he saw himself in relation to other people and God was lifted!

Luke 5:14 “...go and show yourself to the priest...”

Jesus is your great High Priest now and you don't need to hide from Him. He knows what you did and He died for it so that you could not just be forgiven, but so that you could stop hiding from Him and other people.

How do you shake the outcast mentality of a leper and start showing yourself to God and other people?

Hebrews 10:19-23 “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, ²¹and since we have a Great Priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

This passage is talking about far more than just forgiveness of sins. It's talking about the level of assurance, acceptance, confidence, and intimacy you now have with the living God because you know you've been made clean!

The only way to come out of hiding is to stop looking at yourself so much and to start looking at Jesus more.

“For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.”

~ Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Read the Gospels, Colossians, and the book of Hebrews—over and over until your sin is dwarfed and overshadowed by how grand and glorious your Savior is!

“There is only one way to get rid of self, and that is that you should become so absorbed in someone or something else that you have no time to think about yourself. Thank God, the Spirit of God makes that possible...But why are [so many Christians] morbidly preoccupied with themselves? The answer is that they are not sufficiently occupied with Him. It is our failure to know Him and His ways as we should know them – that is the real trouble. If we only spent more of our time looking at Him we should soon forget ourselves.”

~ Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Spiritual Depression*

The more you're captivated by Christ, the less you'll be caught up in self because you can't do both at the same time.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”