

To Heal or to Forgive Which is Easier?

Luke - the Acts of Jesus

Luke 5:17-26

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Demonstrations of Jesus' Power

- The Demons must obey him – 4:31-37, 41
- Sickness flees at his command – 4:38-40
- Fish cannot hide from him – 5:4-7
- Uncleaness cannot touch him – 5:12-16
- Sin, and it's effects, cannot abide with him – 5:17-26

The Desperation of the Leper

- There was no more that he could lose by disobeying rabbinic law and approaching Jesus
 - Dull White / Clear White / Black
 - “Full of Leprosy” completely overtaken by leprosy
- He prostrated himself before Jesus
 - “If you are willing, You can make me clean”
- Jesus touched (took hold of) the man
 - “I am willing. Be thou made clean” Aor. Pass.
 - The leprosy disappeared from him
- Jesus demonstrated the Righteousness of the Divine
 - Rather than the unclean (leper) making the clean (Jesus) unclean,
 - the Clean (Jesus) made the unclean (leper) clean

The Story, 5:17-19

- The Setting
- The Offending Pronouncement
- The Charge is Laid
- The Charge is Challenged
- Jesus' Authority is Put On Display
- The Outcome and the Fallout
 - They were filled with fear

The Setting, 5:17-19

- Teaching in a house
- Pharisees from all over Israel were present
 - Along with the Teachers of the Law
- Power to heal was present (cf. Php 2:7)
- A paralyzed man's friends brought him to Jesus
 - They wanted to bring him in, but the crowd was too large
 - They took him up to the roof, dismantled a part of it, and lowered him into Jesus presence

The Offending Pronouncement, 5:20

- Seeing their faith
 - The paralyzed man, and
 - The friends who cared enough to bring him to Jesus
- Jesus forgave the man's sins
 - Healing from the affect of sin is our greatest need
 - Healing from all the effects of sin will come later

The Charge is Laid, 5:21

- Who does this man think he is, who can so easily put voice to his blasphemies?
 - Speaking evil of God's Law
 - Stephen, Ac 6:13; Paul, Ac 21:27f.
 - To slander God Himself
 - Lev 24:10-16; Ex 20:7
 - To impersonate God as if to be equal with or in the place of God
- No man can forgive sin
- Only God can forgive sin

The Charge is Challenged, 5:22*f*.

- Jesus knew what was in their hearts (cf. Jn 2:25)
- If he were only a great prophet or teacher, he would have corrected their misunderstanding of his statement...but He didn't correct it, because there was nothing to correct.
- He was claiming deity
 - “I will forgive their iniquity and their sin I will remember no more.” Jer 31:34

Jesus' Authority is Put On Display, 5:24*f*.

- Which is easier, A or B?
 - If A is true, then B should just as easily follow
 - Power over sin's effects in this world would confirm authority over sin's presence, or, the ability to forgive sin and eradicate it from the world.
- The healing would serve as proof of His authority to forgive sin.
 - “I say to you, rise, and take up your stretcher and go home.”

The Outcome & the Fallout, 5:26

- He got up, picked up his stretcher and went home...the paralysis left immediately
 - Notice, there was not transition from paralysis to wholeness...he got up and went
- He went on his way praising God
 - He was completely healed, yes...but even moreso,
 - He was forgiven of his sin
- Everyone acknowledged that they had seen remarkable things, and were filled with fear.

They Were Filled with Fear, 5:26b

- Fear
 - Panic induced by frightening events
 - Apprehension or anxiety
 - The result of recognizing and understanding God's holiness, power and presence
 - This is how it is used in Mt, Mk, Lk and the Acts
- Fear is healthy if:
 - It produces reverence for God and helps believers avoid sin
 - 2 Co 7:1, 11
 - Helps believers live godly lives, Php 2:12
 - Motivates believers to mutual submission and service, Ep 5:21
 - Motivates us to spread the Gospel with integrity of heart, 2 Co 5:11

