

# Spread the Word

## Introduction

Open your copy of God's Word to the Gospel according to Luke chapter 5.

## Bible

*(12) And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. (13) And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. (14) And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. (15) But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. (16) And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed. (17) And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judæa, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.*

*Luke 5:12-17 - KJV*

# 1...The Request of the Healer (v. 12)

## Explanation

First, let's consider the condition of the requester.

## A...The Condition of the Requester

### Explanation

Luke, who was himself a physician, identified this man as "full of leprosy." Leprosy does not carry the same level of dread in our society today as it did in that society. Perhaps the closest comparison for us would be "full of cancer."

Leprosy, which generally identified several skin infections, always had extreme consequences - even beyond the physical implications. We read from Leviticus 13:1-3 earlier in the service that leprosy resulted in the infected person being pronounced unclean. This ceremonial pronouncement carried societal and religious implications. A Bible teacher wrote about leprosy that...

*According to Jewish law and customs, one had to keep 6 feet (2 meters) from a leper.*

*If the wind blew toward a person from a leper, they had to keep 150 feet (45 meters)*

*away. The only thing more defiling than contact with a leper was contact with a dead body (David Guzik).*

## Explanation

This man's condition was diseased, depressing, desperate, and deadly.

Dr. A. B. MacDonald, who founded and directed a medical treatment center for lepers in Itu, Nigeria during the middle of the twentieth century, wrote this about those who suffer leprosy...

*“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”*

*(David Guzik).*

## Application

For this reason, leprosy pictures sin throughout the Bible. The prophet Isaiah used an illustration like leprosy as he depicted Judah's condition before God (see Is. 1:4-6). Every man apart from Christ is as diseased, depressed, desperate, and dead before God as this leprous man was before Christ.

## B...The Confidence of the Requester

### Explanation

This man, full of leprosy, came to Jesus and said, “Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.”

He recognized Jesus's authority prompting him to call Him "Lord."

He recognized Jesus's ability prompting him to question not whether Jesus could heal him, but whether He would heal him.

## **Illustration**

Could you imagine someone approaching an M.D. with confidence like that?

Nine months ago, through other illness symptoms, this was discovered in the femoral neck of my right leg. What you're looking at is an X-ray of a tumor inside the bone of my right leg. Some of you know that for about six weeks this was a burden to me and my family.

Would it have been typical of how people usually behave with doctors if I had gone to the specialist and said, "I know you can treat me and cure me, if you want to. So, if you want to, do it."?

## **Explanation**

That's what this man did with Jesus. He confidently believed that Jesus had the authority and ability to heal him, if He willed to do so.

His confidence, his faith in Jesus, without experience, astounds me. Leprosy was so hopeless that healing leprosy compared to raising the dead. Yet this leper believed Jesus could heal him, if only He was willing.

## **Application**

Who or what is your faith in today?

As Jesus could heal this man, if only He was willing to do so, so Jesus can heal you of your diseased, depressed, desperate, and dead condition before God apart from Christ.

What does it require of you?

Simple faith.

The Bible from cover to cover declares that faith in the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ brings salvation.

## **Bible**

*(8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9 - KJV*

## **Application**

And in case you are curious if He is willing to heal you, to save you, even though you know He can...

## **Bible**

*(9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance.*

2 Peter 3:9 - KJV

## Application

If you are not saved today, you stand diseased, depressed, desperate, and dead before God because you are condemned in and by your sin. But God loves you so much that He sent His only Son to live the life you cannot, die the death you deserve, and rise again to offer you salvation and new life.

Would you believe on Him today? He will not turn you away, but will save you.

## 2...The Response of the Healer (vv. 13-14)

### Bible

*(13) And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.*

*Luke 5:13 - KJV*

## A...The Cleansing of the Requester

### Explanation

Jesus willed to heal the man, and He did so.

He healed the man compassionately – He reached out and touched him. This represents a stunning departure from the norm, and a beautiful reality of our Savior. Pastor Tony Evans describes it this way...

*The Mosaic law required those with such skin conditions to separate from others.*

*However, when Jesus touched the man, contamination didn't flow in; cleansing flowed out (Tony Evans).*

## **Application**

Like leprosy could not, your sin cannot contaminate the Savior. When contact takes place between sinful man and the perfect Savior, cleansing – not contamination – always results.

## **Explanation**

He healed the man commandingly – He spoke authoritatively to accomplish the work.

## **Application**

Everything bows to the command of Jesus. Nothing exists or operates outside His power and authority.

## **Explanation**

He healed the man completely – His leprosy did not retreat from the surface deep into his body but left him completely.

## Application

When we think of sin and salvation, salvation is completely of Jesus Christ. He did not fulfill part of the requirement and leave something to us. All of it, from beginning to conclusion, is of and by Him. That's why the penman of Hebrews called Him...

## Bible

*(2) Looking unto Jesus **the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*Hebrews 12:2 - KJV*

## B...The Charge to the Requester

## Bible

*(14) And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.*

*Luke 5:14 - KJV*

## Explanation

Jesus charged the cleansed man to tell no one of the miracle, but to go to the priest directly.

Jesus desired liberty to continue traveling and teaching.

His charge to go to the priest connects with what we read earlier in Leviticus 14. A beautiful picture flows from that passage, as we think about it connected with Jesus.

When a leper experienced healing, he took two birds to the priest to be pronounced clean. The two birds were taken, one was killed and the other - after it was dipped in the blood of the slain bird - was set free.

## **Application**

That's salvation! You and I are diseased, depressed, desperate, and dead before God because of sin. Jesus, the spotless Lamb, came and shed His blood to satisfy God's wrath and offer forgiveness. Those who believe on Christ are spiritually washed in the blood of the Lamb and set free from the condemnation of sin.

If you're saved today through having trusted the finished work of Christ, you have been washed in the blood of the Lamb and have been set free.

## **Bible**

*(11) And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

*1 Corinthians 6:11 - KJV*

## **Application**

If you have never believed in Christ, believe today and you'll be washed, forgiven, and set free

from the penalty of sin.

## 3...The Report of the Healer (v. 15)

### Explanation

"Fame" translates the Greek word "logos." In this context, it identifies something said. Someone spread the word about Jesus. Luke doesn't identify who spread the word, but Mark does.

### Bible

*(44) And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. (45) **But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter,** insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.*

*Mark 1:44-45 - KJV*

### Explanation

This man, whom Jesus charged to stay quiet, could not help but tell everyone about Jesus Who healed him.

### Application

How sad that we who have been healed and commanded to tell others about Jesus often stay silent! We have the glorious message and have been commanded to tell everybody about somebody Who can save anybody...but we often tell nobody.

How can you spread the word with everybody this week?

- Utilize Gospel tracts, church invitations, and other forms of printed materials.
- Utilize social media outlets to share Scripture – especially Gospel themed verses –, church posts and videos, and your testimony. Post about God's goodness. Don't let your page resemble everybody else's page.
- Utilize messaging opportunities to point others to Jesus (I did this with Walmart delivery this week).
- Utilize your voice when and where you have the opportunities. Look for them, rather than stumbling into them.

## **Explanation**

Because he spread the word, multitudes of others who needed healing came to Jesus. The reality of multitudes who had infirmities connected with the reason Jesus came. Contextually, the presence of so much sickness in Israel identified their failure in God's covenant because God said such curses among them would be the result (see Deut. 28). Jesus came, not only to deal with the result of the covenant unfaithfulness, but the reason for it – the sinfulness of man's heart.

## Application

That's what we're to spread the word about – a Savior Who deals not only with the result of sin, but the reason for it. Spread the word of the Savior this sick world needs!

## 4...The Repose of the Healer (v. 16)

### Bible

*(16) And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.*

*Luke 5:16 - KJV*

### Explanation

Pastor Tony Evans described Jesus's reponse when he wrote that...

*The greater the demand on him, the more Jesus in his humanity depended on God the Father (Tony Evans).*

### Explanation

Jesus was not running away, but seeking His Father for strength to do what He was sent to do.

Humbly, He identified His dependence on and need for God.

### Application

Friends, God's using of us comes about as a product of His grace. Being used should prompt us

to give Him the glory and drive us to more prayer. If we want to be used and experience fruit, let's praise God for what He's already done in, for, and through us and spend more time in humble, dependent prayer.

## Explanation

What came from Jesus's repose?

## Bible

*(17) And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judæa, and Jerusalem: **and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.***

*Luke 5:17 - KJV*

## Application

I believe that's true here today. God's power is here to heal someone who needs healing. God wants to work in, for, and through us in deeper, greater ways.

Will we believe Him for it?

Will we spread the word?

Will we repose in humble, dependent prayer?

How will you respond to God's word today?