



Book of Luke Series
Luke 5:1-11
Week of April 1-6, 2019

It's half-time of the 45 Days of Faithfulness- Allow the group to share some highs and lows so far. Encourage those in your group to finish strong. It is okay to reset if needed and remind them that God is always faithful.

The opening question for this week's sermon was - How are you with trusting others? Brennan Manning suggests that the essence of trust is to be convinced of the reliability of God. Where have you been absolutely convinced of the reliability of God? What is an area recently where you need to be reminded that God is completely trustworthy?

"While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. 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." But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray." - Luke 5:12-16 ESV

The Heartbreak of Psoriasis

The leprosy mentioned here might not be actually the leprosy we normally think about but more like psoriasis (a skin condition but not the rotting flesh) – but the other issue is with being unclean and kept from mingling with others.

Jesus touches him and says "I will, be clean." Immediately he was healed. Immediately is emphasized in all of the synoptic gospels.

(In Mark's account, he mentions that Jesus is filled with compassion and heals him. Luke leaves out the compassion part. He seems to focus more on fact rather than emotions.)

Have you ever been filled with compassion for someone with a need? What did you do as a result? What is a need that you are aware of now that God may be leading you to meet? Will you follow through?

The healed man was to tell no one but to go offer his sacrifice and allow the priest to reinstate him to proper status. Seems a little odd that Jesus would tell him not to tell anyone. (Quite unlike most of us that when we do something great, we want people to know about it.)

Here we see more and more people are clamoring to get to Jesus - His popularity is growing! Jesus tries to get him to not tell anyone - His time to be revealed as the Son of God has not come yet. Jesus was not only concerned about the physical needs of people but ultimately their eternal home. One of the subtleties of Christianity

Jesus gets away to pray in some desolate place. - v. 16

How often do you get away (even for a few minutes) to spend time in prayer? Why do you think Jesus did this frequently?

The Biggest Miracle of Jesus' Public Ministry

"On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said, 'Man, your sins are forgiven you.' And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, 'Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?' When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, 'Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? 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." And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."'" - Luke 5:17-26 ESV

Mark 2 is a parallel passage that gives a little more detail on the story.

He is hanging with the religious leaders and the HS is powerful on Him and they bring a paralytic to Him on a mat.

Jesus saw their faith (the faith of the four friends) and forgave the sins of the man. The greatest miracle is that Jesus forgives sins.

Scribes and Pharisees begin to question that Jesus forgives sins. Jesus perceives their thoughts and calls out their questions and their motives for the questions in their hearts about Jesus.

Interestingly enough, Jesus forgave the man's sins first and then said, "Now get up, take your mat and go home." This was the physical manifestation of the power of Jesus. One that the people could physically see and experience from the outside, but Jesus did a greater work in redeeming the man's life from sin.

The man still had to act on the command. He did what Jesus said and then went about glorifying God. You will obey the One who heals you. This was an individual response to what Christ had done in His life.

Has God healed you of anything and you have been slow to praise Him for the healing? (Maybe a physical issue, a relational issue, an attitude, etc.)

There was a collective response to the healing as well.- Amazement seized them all and they glorified God and were filled them all.

Take a couple of minutes to dissect and explore this truth - Jesus forgives sins. There is no greater healing or miracle. How has Christ changed you?

Take time to share prayer requests and pray together.