

Luke 5:12-16

Introduction:

**The need for a miracle of healing—5:12**

- 1) The wretched setting—5:12a
  - a) Where? <sup>12</sup> *And it happened, while He was in one of the cities,*
  - b) What? *that behold, there was a man who was full of skin disease* [λέπρα].
    - i) This man would have completely isolated (physically, socially, religiously, and psychologically) from this anonymous community. He was unclean to the fullest extent possible. This is Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> encounter with a social outcast (cf. 4:33-37)
    - ii) What was feared most was not catching the disease but the ritual impurity from those who were little more than a walking corpse.
- 2) The leper's confident request—5:12b *he asked* [δέομαι] *Him, saying,*
  - a) Observation—*And having seen Jesus,*
  - b) Humility and unworthiness—*having fallen on his face,*
    - i) Not even looking Jesus in the face
  - c) Submission—*“Lord, if (3<sup>rd</sup> class condition) You are willing* [θέλω],
    - i) He makes no presumptions about what Jesus will do.
    - ii) The focus is on Jesus' **willingness**, not His **ability**.
  - d) Trust—*You are able to make me clean.*” (not, “Heal me!”)
    - i) The man has no other options. IF Jesus does not cleanse him, no one else can.

**Jesus's authoritative, compassionate, and submissive response—5:13-14**

- 1) Jesus' authoritative
- 2) Jesus' compassionate two-fold response—5:13
  - a) Actions—<sup>13</sup> *And having stretched out His hand, He touched him,*
    - i) This would have potentially made Jesus ceremonially unclean (cf. Leviticus 14:16)
    - ii) This man had probably not been touched by anyone for a long time. What a tender kindness to him by Jesus.
  - b) Words—*saying,*
    - i) What Jesus says
      - (1) *“I am willing* [θέλω].
      - (2) *Be cleansed.*” (not, “Be healed!”)
    - ii) The result—*And immediately the skin disease left* [ἀπέρχομαι] *him.*
      - (1) Cf. 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5:1-14 and Luke 4:27
      - (2) No one could cure skin disease but God alone! (Moses—Exodus 4; Miriam—Numbers 12; Naaman—2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5)
- 3) Jesus' submissive instructions—5:14
  - a) Be silent—<sup>14</sup> *And He* (emphatic) *instructed him to tell no one, but,*
    - i) Why the silence?

- b) Display yourself—*show yourself to the priest*,
  - i) *“Having departed [ἀπέρχομαι],*
  - ii) The declaration of cleanness by the priest was a week-long process.
- c) Present an offering—and *bring an offering for your cleansing*, (not healing)
  - i) *just as Moses instructed*, (cf. Leviticus 13:1-14:32)
  - ii) Why? *as a testimony to them.*
    - (1) Who is the “them”? Most likely to the priests, indicating the God is at work among through Jesus.
- d) Only the priests could declare this man clean so he could rejoin his family and community. Jesus wants this man fully reintegrated into society.

### **Jesus’s Godward response to His increasing celebrity—5:15-16**

- 1) His unintentional celebrity—5:15
  - a) How celebrity takes place
    - i) <sup>15</sup> *But the news concerning Him was spreading [διέρχομαι] even more,*
      - (1) The reason for this is found in Mark 1:45
      - ii) *and large crowds came together [συνέρχομαι]*
    - b) For what purposes did people come to Jesus? (2 infinitives)
      - i) *to listen,*
      - ii) *and to be healed by Him from their illnesses.*
- 2) His habitual, appropriate Godward response—5:16
  - a) <sup>16</sup> *But He (ephatic) Himself would withdraw [ὑποχωρέω] in the wilderness*
  - b) *and pray [προσεύχομαι].*
    - i) There are times to leave the faces of people and seek the face of the Father.
    - ii) This is preparation not only for 5:17-26, but for the whole series of upcoming conflicts with the Jewish leaders.
    - iii) Three principles re: prayer (Rosscup, 3:1632)
      - (1) Don’t let busy-ness bulldoze prayer out of the way.
      - (2) Cultivate a habit of praying.
      - (3) Ask God to grant you wisdom about making time for prayer.

**Take-home truth:** Do you see yourself as unclean and unworthy? Read Isaiah 42:1-4. Jesus is willing and able to cleanse and forgive. He is truly Yahweh-Rapha, the Lord who heals (Exodus 15:26).