

Luke's Gospel – An Inclusive Savior

Lesson Seven

[Luke 5:1-11].....From Fish to Men

- vs.1-3 Jesus' popularity continued to grow (needed a "floating" pulpit)
 Spotlight is on Simon of this passage
- vs.5 Simon Peter is a professional fisherman. Why would he trust Jesus' knowledge of fishing?
- vs.6-7 That's a lot of fish!
- vs.8-11 Simon (& the others) witness first-hand what they'd heard: power of Jesus
 Simon's skill as a fisherman is never the issue in this passage - his LIFE is!
 Simon's sin does not disqualify him (as he thinks). The same power that drops Simon to his knees, raises him to the status of disciple
- NOTE:** "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch people." is addressed to Simon, but James and John and the others with Simon "left everything" and followed Jesus too.

[Luke 5:12-16].....Savior of the Lepers?

- NOTE:** Lepers were not only physically plagued, but they were isolated because of their disease (Leviticus 13:45-46). They were "unclean."
- vs.12 The question for the leper is **not** Jesus' ability to heal him, but his *willingness* to heal him
- vs.13 The leper's desperation is obvious. He breaks the law by "talking" to Jesus
 Jesus touches him and cures him.
 Jesus had to go to the leper's dwelling place, for the leper couldn't re-enter population
- vs.14 The leper is not to tell anyone of his cleansing except the priest. Why?
- vs.15-16 Obviously, the leper didn't do this (Mark 1:45). Consequently, Jesus' popularity became overwhelming & he needed some "down" time.

[Luke 5:17-26].....Are Healings linked to Sins?

- vs.19 Undoubtedly, these men had heard the stories of Jesus and *believed* them
- vs.20-26 "Friend, your sins are forgiven"
- Pharisees considered this statement blasphemous - (only God can forgive sins)
- *Bigger issue is whether or not this man's healing is linked to his sins.
 Healing and forgiveness have their source in God!
- NOTE:** Luke uses this story to prove three things(vs.23-24):
- 1.Church believes that Jesus has the power of God to heal and forgive sins
 - 2.Jesus charges us to a ministry of healing & offering forgiveness of sins through Christ's name
 - 3.There is a relationship between forgiveness and healing

[Luke 5:33-39].....Old vs New

- vs.33-35 John the Baptist's disciples and the Pharisees' disciples fasted primarily according to the religious schedule of Judaism
Jesus never debates whether or not it is good to fast (it is good); rather Jesus deals with the question of the appropriateness of fasting
Jesus never gives a set time or schedule for fasting - He just assures us that there will be a time to fast (vs.35)
- vs.36-38 Jesus is saying that his disciples can't conform to the old ways of Judaism like a new patch can conform to old material **OR** as new wine can be stored in old wine skins
Old wine skins **CANNOT** contain the new wine - Old laws and ways of Judaism will not be able to hold the teachings of the TRUTH (consequently, the Gospel was taken to Gentiles for the Jews couldn't appreciate it)
- vs.39 Simply means, it is hard to change when you're used to thinking one way for a long period of time