

## Forgiveness Has Come

(Luke 5:12-26)

[Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.

### Jesus cleanses us [Luke 5:12-16]

1. Leprosy: Debilitating skin disease where painful sores erupt on the skin eventually leading to severe nerve damage.
  - a. Lepers were quarantined from the community & exiled "outside of the camp."
  - b. Social stigma: People wrongly assumed that all lepers were cursed of God.
    - i. Some lepers were afflicted as judgment for sin (cf. 2 Chr 26:16-23), *but not all*.
  - c. [Lev 13:45-46] They lived in isolation & would have to cry: "Unclean, unclean!" when approaching people.
  - d. Leprosy defined & consumed their identity as "unclean."
2. [5:12] Dr. Luke diagnoses this man as beyond initial stages of the disease, as "full of leprosy."
  - a. He approaches Jesus in complete humility & desperation.
  - b. He recognizes Jesus as Lord & able to heal him.
  - c. People's greatest fear around him is to touch him.
3. [5:13] Jesus' response: He reaches out and touches the man.
  - a. Religious leaders' made-up rule (not in the Bible): Touching someone with leprosy makes you unclean too.
  - b. Jesus is capable of healing from a distance (cf. Luke 7:1-10), but chooses to touch this unclean man.
  - c. He intentionally does so in front of crowds of people (cf. Matt 8:1), His disciples in training & religious leaders.
  - d. Through touch, Jesus shows that He loves him & identifies with him.
  - e. "Immediately", he is cleansed.
4. [Isaiah 1:4-6] God uses physical healing to teach spiritual truth: Sin is like leprosy
  - a. All people are sinful and unclean, by nature & by choice.
  - b. Sin is deep, incurable, desensitizes spiritual nerves, causes us to live separated from God outside His camp.
  - c. Sin ultimately leads to death.
  - d. God views sin & its effects as we view leprosy & its effects: It is awful & horrible to Him.
  - e. God's response: He touches & cleanses us.
5. [5:14] Jesus instructs the cleansed man to obey Biblical (not religious) rules.
  - a. [15] Jesus becomes even more popular.
  - b. [16] Jesus takes a coffee break / Sabbath to be renewed & refreshed with His Father.

### Religion vs. faith [Luke 5:17-19]

1. [5:17] Pharisees & teachers of the Law (Scribes) started with a good idea: They want people to obey the Bible.
  - a. But they turned it into religion: Man's effort to earn God's favor by the merit of their works.
  - b. Scribes: Upper-class, formally-educated, respected theological teachers.
  - c. Pharisees: Closed groups under a Scribe; working class & not greatly educated, leading to blind obedience.
  - d. How many show up? A lot, "from every village" between Galilee to Judea, & from Jerusalem.
2. [5:18-19] Some guys can't get their paralytic friend into the house because it is too crowded.
  - a. They want to get their hurting friend to Jesus, and it is the religious people who are in the way.
  - b. Instead of rejoicing, Pharisees start criticizing because Jesus doesn't follow their "rules."
    - i. Pharisee means: "Separated one."
    - ii. They believe sin is "caught" like leprosy, so they avoid "sinners."
    - iii. They don't understand sin isn't just external; it's also internal within them.

- iv. They have goofy, man-made rules in addition to the Bible, e.g., avoiding “sinners.”
- v. Jesus breaks all their religious rules, none of His Father’s/the Bible’s.
- c. None of the religious people do anything to help the paralytic man.
  - i. They’re so busy criticizing Jesus, they are oblivious to the hurting & needy people around them.

### **Jesus forgives sin [Luke 5:20-26]**

1. [5:20] Jesus proclaims the man’s sins forgiven.
  - a. Jesus sees their faith, their trust in Him.
  - b. Religion: Through a process of rules & suffering, you pay God back; then He might forgive you if you earn it.
  - c. Jesus says: If you trust in Me, I can just forgive you.
2. The man’s injury and sin are connected.
  - a. Not all bad circumstances are a direct result of a particular sin.
  - b. However, sinful behavior can have long-lasting, natural consequences.
  - c. Like someone whose sinful behavior has caused himself harm, he has wrecked his life.
3. [5:21-24] Who has authority to forgive sin?
  - a. [21] The Pharisees consider Jesus’ claim as blasphemous.
  - b. [22-23] Jesus will prove He has authority to forgive sin by healing the physical consequences of sin.
  - c. [24] “Son of Man”: A claim to being God; (cf. Daniel 7:13-14) the One who existed with God the Father in eternity past & will rule God’s eternal Kingdom forever.
4. [5:25-26] People respond to the miraculous healing.
  - a. [25a] “Immediately”, he is healed.
  - b. [25b] The man glorifies & worships God.
  - c. [26] The people glorify & worship God.
  - d. We rejoice & worship God, not just for the miraculous healing, but even more because his sins are forgiven.
    - i. Jesus can & does heal physically.
    - ii. But at His second coming & the resurrection of the dead, God will fully heal all His children.
    - iii. Miracle: Sinful, broken people like us are loved by God and can be forgiven.

### **Conclusion: Jesus cleanses, forgives & saves**

1. Religious: There is a little Pharisee in all of us; a “God’s Word plus” mentality.
  - a. Whether Christian or not, you can be religious, replacing Jesus with man-made rules about how to be good or right with God.
2. Unclean: Some of us feel filthy, having done vile things; some have had disgusting, vile things done to us.
  - a. You may feel as if your identity is: “Unclean, unclean.”
  - b. Jesus puts his safe, healing hand on us too.
  - c. You just have to ask Him: “Would you heal me & cleanse me?”
3. Guilty: Some of us have done terrible things as sinners, and have wrecked our lives.
  - a. If you turn to Jesus, He forgives you.
4. Application: If you’re filthy, Jesus cleanses; if you’re guilty, Jesus forgives you; if you’re religious, knock it off.
  - a. We’re cleansed, forgiven & don’t want to get religious, so we repent of our filth, sin & religion.
  - b. We’re filled with awe, rejoicing & glorifying God because Jesus has touched us.