

WHO IS THAT MAN?

Luke Series

Luke 5:12-26

DAY 1: Read Luke 5:12-26

One of the things I appreciate about the Bible is how honest its view of the world is. Rather than painting a utopian picture of some make-believe world, the stories in scripture are filled with examples of a wrecked and shattered reality. Reality isn't always pretty. The world is broken. It is filled with broken people with broken stories. And it is into this broken world that Jesus enters. He comes to save, redeem, and ultimately to restore mankind along with the creation of the way things were meant to be. All of Jesus' miracles, in a sense, are a foreshadowing of what will one day be a universal reality...the day when He will fully and finally *reverse the curse!* Where is your hope today? Where are you experiencing the effects of living in a broken world? Take that to Jesus, and spend some time praising God for sending us His Rescuer.

DAY 2: Read Luke 5:31 & 18:9-14

We live in a world that is allergic to need. We all feel a certain amount of pressure to be strong, capable, and put together. But the truth is, at some level, all of us are needy. All of us are sick. The question is: *can we admit it?* Throughout Jesus' ministry, there were always 2 groups of people. There were the ones who were sick and suffering, who knew they needed help. And there were the ones who thought they were doing just fine. Who do you find yourself relating to more, the first group or second? Take some time to confess any areas of your life where you are looking to yourself instead of Jesus for hope, significance and meaning. Then rest in the fact that in Jesus, you have everything you need. It's ok to be needy and run to Him every day.

DAY 3: Read Leviticus 13:45-46

All throughout scripture, we see that leprosy was not something treated lightly. It was a serious condition. The leper was relegated to a life of shame and isolation. In many ways, leprosy is a picture of sin. Sin produces shame, isolation, and ultimately death. It causes us to hide. It wreaks havoc on relationships, separating us from God and from others. Sin is a serious condition. What an amazing thing that Jesus actually *touches* this leper. In touching him, Jesus was essentially trading places with the leper. The man became clean and could then be brought back *into* community and relationship with others. Jesus, however, was on a journey that would eventually leave Him outside the city, isolated on a cross, taking our sin and shame upon Himself and restoring our relationship to God. What an amazing portrayal of the Gospel!

DAY 4: Read Luke 5:13, Luke 5:20 & Romans 5:1-5

God's words are powerful. It was through His words that the universe was spoken into being. He then declared that His creation was *very good* (Gen 1-2). What we see here in Luke is that Jesus' words have the power to cleanse and to forgive. The words that Jesus speaks over the leper and the paralytic man are life-altering words. He says, "Be clean" and the leper is made clean. He says, "Your sins are forgiven" and it happens. He says, "Get up and walk" and the paralytic is healed. Guess what? Jesus isn't done speaking! He still speaks today. Do you know what He says over your life? "Justified!" "Righteous!" "Approved!" The Good News is that whatever Jesus declares to be true about us is the truest thing there is. Live in light of that reality today!

DAY 5: Read Luke 5:17-26

We like to think we know exactly what we need. We have our plans, our strategies, our shopping carts, our wish lists and all our dreams. We think to ourselves that if we can just get those things, we're good. What we see in the story of the paralytic is that Jesus knows this man's *real* need. The healing he longs for isn't his greatest need; *forgiveness is*. Jesus shows the audience (and us as readers) that there's a deeper need we all possess. Jesus came to forgive and save sinners. And to prove that He had the authority to forgive, Jesus heals the man's legs. Approximately 3 years after this, Jesus dies on a cross, shouting, "Father, forgive them!" And if that were it, there wouldn't be much hope. But Jesus didn't stay dead. In the same way that Jesus proved He could forgive sins by telling the paralytic man to RISE, God told Jesus to RISE! And He did! Because of the resurrection, we can know for certain that we're forgiven. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

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