

## Luke 5:12-32 The Sinner's Physician

As the sinner's physician Jesus:

- 1) Restores us to worship and communion with God (vv. 12-16).
  - a) Clean & Unclean (Num. 5:1-4; Lev. 14)—social and religious contamination that prevents one from entering the temple/tabernacle complex and from having contact with clean persons; the guilt offering for atonement indicates that the uncleanness was a result of judgment/curse, but not necessarily for a particularly heinous sin or hidden sin.
  - b) Contact with the unclean contaminates the clean person. But the opposite is the case with Jesus. He touches the leper and makes him clean (v. 13).
  - c) The goal of cleansing is to be restored to Temple worship/fellowship (v. 14).
  - d) Many were hungry for this restoration. They came not only to be "healed of their infirmities," but also "to hear Him" (v. 15).
  - e) Do you desire God? Do you only desire things from God?
- 2) Forgives our sins (vv. 17-26).
  - a) Pharisees and teachers of the law were religious authorities who were careful to investigate religious teaching and activity.
  - b) The paralytic and his friends are desperate for Jesus' Word (vv. 18-19).
  - c) Their faith in Jesus to restore this man was met with restoration (v. 20).
  - d) The scribes and Pharisees challenged Jesus authority to forgive sins, correctly noting that only God can forgive sins (v. 21).
  - e) Jesus' response in word and deed demonstrates that He is the Divine Son of Man (Dan. 7) who has all authority, including the authority to forgive sins (vv. 22-26).
  - f) The various miseries of this life are symptoms of the deeper problem of sin. There can be no full enjoyment of life apart from God. Sin makes a separation between God and man. Therefore, sin must be forgiven for us to enjoy true life with God.
  - g) The paralytic had this even when he was still paralyzed. The healing of his paralysis was simply the immediately visible evidence of it for the Pharisees, Scribes, and crowds (v. 26).
  - h) Jesus has the authority to forgive your sins. Have you come to Him in faith? Would you?
- 3) Turns us from sin to follow Him (vv. 27-32).
  - a) Levi was not necessarily a dishonest tax collector, but his profession (collecting taxes to knowingly support a godless oppressor) made him suspect to his countrymen.
  - b) Jesus calls Levi. The narrative is succinct in order to highlight the power of Christ's call. He calls. Levi follows. That's all there is to it (vv. 27-28).
  - c) Levi arranged for his associates to meet with Jesus (v. 29).
  - d) The Pharisees and Scribes are critical of Jesus' choice of company (v. 30). They are thinking that unclean people contaminate clean people. They don't realize that with Jesus it works the other way around; the clean One decontaminates the unclean. They ask Jesus' disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"—By "sinners" they intend those who have not been careful to practice God's commandments. As far as they are concerned, these people have made their beds, now they have to sleep in them.
  - e) Jesus' reply shows compassion for sinners, but not approval of their sins (vv. 31-32).
    - i) Sinners have a sickness called death.
    - ii) Sinners are helpless to cure their sickness.
    - iii) Jesus' powerful, inward call is the cure.
    - iv) Jesus' call is transformative. Repentance is turning from sin to follow Him.
  - f) The call to follow Jesus is absolute: "leaving everything, he rose and followed Him" (v. 28).
  - g) Is your soul following hard after Jesus? Psalm 68:8