

Study Guide for May 9, 1999

Series: Lessons for Learners (Luke 4-6)

Text: Luke 5:12-26 Learning about Compassion and Forgiveness

1. We will consider two stories, the cleansing of a leper and the healing of a paralytic. Both are recorded all of the synoptic (Matt., Mark, and Luke) gospels. Read and note the distinctives:

Matt. 8:1-4

Mark 1:40-44

Luke 5:12-16

Leper:

Matt. 9:1-8

Mark 2:1-12

Luke 5:17-26

Paralytic:

2. Leprosy in biblical times referred to a variety of skin diseases. At its worst it disfigured and was fatal. It was devastating physically, psychologically, and socially. The only defense against it was quarantine (see Lev. 13:45-46). How would Jesus' action, "reached out his hand and touched the man," and his statement, "I am willing," effect the disciples? How does it challenge you?
3. What effect would Jesus intend from the command he gave in vs. 14?

How can we provide similar "testimony"?

4. In the account of Jesus' healing the paralytic, we are told that, "Jesus saw their faith." (vs. 20). Whose faith did Jesus see and how was it expressed?

Identify one "friend" who you sense needs to be brought to Jesus. Pray for that person now!

5. How are Jesus' two proclamations, "Your sins are forgiven." and, "Get up and walk!" related?

What does this story teach us, his followers, about Jesus?