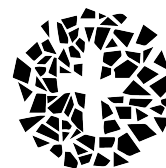


INTRODUCING JESUS

LUKE 5:12-16

Community Group Study Guide
Week of May 20, 2018



MOSAIC BOSTON
LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

This week we looked at Luke 5:12-16 where Jesus cleanses a man with leprosy. Pastor Jan describe in detail the nature and the horrors on the disease, and how it's symptoms are similar to the effect sin has on our hearts. Leprosy created a barrier between people, it caused a deep sense of shame, and it also numbed a person to physical reality. Likewise, sin destroys relationship, it fills us with guilt and shame, and ultimately numbs our conscience so that we no longer feel the horror of it's presence in our lives.

In leprosy we can see two figurative, but false ways of approaching Jesus. The first is to be so numb to our sin that we don't feel the need for a savior. We grow to love the sin that's destroying us, or begin to justify why it's not so bad. The second, is to feel so much guilt and shame over sin, that we run away from God fearing he could never be merciful enough to forgive us. The man in this story, however, shows us the correct way to approach Jesus. He was deeply aware of his unclean state, but instead of running away from Jesus, he falls at his feet and begs for his help.

Contextually, what this man did was not only frightening, it was illegal. He was taking a huge risk for himself, but also risked infecting everyone else in the city. A reader in the first century may have expected Jesus to curse the man or demand he leave. Instead, Luke tells us that Jesus reached out his hand, and touched the man. Jesus compassionate response was probably even more shocking than the man's boldness in approaching him. By touching this man Jesus should have become ceremonially unclean, and possibly infected with the disease. Instead, his touch heals the man and makes him clean.

One of the most beautiful thing about the Gospel is that we don't have to clean ourselves up before coming to Jesus, but when we do come to Jesus he also won't leave us in the filthiness of sin. God loves us the way we are and has compassion on us, but he also loves us enough to not let us stay the way we are. His mercy saves us from the penalty of sin (Justification), and his grace incrementally saves us from the power of sin in our lives (Sanctification). Jesus took our guilt and shame and nailed it to the cross so that we could be clothed in His righteousness, but he also sends us the Holy Spirit and gives us power us to live lives worthy of this great Gospel and our great Savior.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand that sin has made us unclean, but the blood of Christ has power to cleanse us from sin.

Heart

To believe that we need a savior, and that Jesus' motive for saving us is not our good behavior, but his own compassion.

Hands

To hear and trust God's word with our ears, to serve him with our hands, and to follow him with our feet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CG Hosts: A lot of people are moving around this summer and we're in need of many new CG hosts. Please pray for this in your groups and let your CG Coach know of anyone willing to host a CG.

Membership or Baptism:

Contact
admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

ICE BREAKER

Describe a time as a kid when you got really dirty playing outside.

Read Luke 5:12-16

- Were there any details in this story that you'd never noticed before or anything that really stood out to you as we read it?
- Like leprosy, sin can either numb us to feel like we don't need a savior, or fill us with so much shame that we doubt God's willingness to save us. Which of these do you think you struggle with more? Why are both based on a lie? How can the Gospel correct us when we're tempted toward one or the other?
- In what ways is the man in this story a good example of how we should approach Jesus?
- After healing the man, Jesus tells him to go to the priest and go through the process of becoming ceremonially clean. Why is this significant and how might it apply to us?
- Part of the ceremonial process had the priest cover the man's ear, hand and foot with blood, and then anoint them with oil as a commitment to listen to God's word with his ear, serve him with his hand, and walk in his commands with his feet. How are each of these a different and important response to God's mercy?
- One of the most shocking things about this story is that Jesus reached out and touch the man to heal him. Why is this significant? Why is physical touch such a powerful thing?
- Why does Jesus withdraw at the end when there were so many people wanting to be healed? What can this teach us about his priorities and mission?
- Does anyone have any other thoughts or questions about the text or sermon? Did anything impact you that you'd like to share?