

Cultivate Gospel of Luke Study
Lesson Eleven

Read and meditate on Luke Chapter 5 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Not only was word spreading about Jesus to the people, who were seeking Him out for healing; but word was also traveling to the religious rulers. From the local rabbis, news spread to as far as Jerusalem and a group of Pharisees and teachers of the law came to investigate who Jesus was and what He was preaching.

Wiersbe- "They had every right to do this since it was the responsibility of the elders to prevent false prophets from leading the people astray (Deut. 13; 18:15–22). They had interrogated John the Baptist (John 1:19–34), and now they would examine Jesus of Nazareth."

Read Luke 5:17-26

Mark 2:1 tells us that this account took place in Capernaum.

Benson Commentary- "*And on a certain day, as he was teaching* — Not on a sabbath day, as it appears, but on a week-day; and not in the synagogue, but in a private house. Preaching and hearing the word of God is good work, if it be performed properly, on any day in the week, as well as on the sabbath days; and in any convenient place, as well as in a place peculiarly set apart for divine worship: even there where we ordinarily converse with our friends, it is not improper to give and receive good instruction."

Mid-week Bible studies in Home Fellowships are important to our church leadership. It is wonderful to come to church on Sundays and receive teaching gathered together; but the Home Fellowship setting is different. The smaller groups facilitate stronger relationships that would not be easy if you only spoke to someone briefly at church on Sundays. It's a place to freely ask questions about the Scripture while being taught. We have examples of meeting together in homes throughout the New Testament.

Read Acts 2:46,47, 5:42, 12:12, 1Corinthians 16:19, Romans 16:3-5, Colossians 4:15.

Do you attend a Home Fellowship?

If you do not attend a Home Fellowship and would like to get connected, we can point you to the many options we have available during the week.

David Guzik made these observations.

“Because of the crowded room, the friends of the paralyzed man had to lower him down through the roof – certainly, an unusual interruption to a sermon.

i. **Through the tiling:** The roof was usually accessible by means of an outside stairway, and was made of thatch, dirt or tile set over beams. It could be taken apart, and the friends of the paralyzed man could lower their friend down to Jesus.

ii. This proved the determination and faith of friends of the paralytic. They counted on Jesus healing their friend, because it sure would be a lot harder to bring him back up through the roof than lowering him down.

iii. Spurgeon spoke of the quality of men who would bring a friend to Jesus in such a way: “They need be strong, for the burden is heavy; they need be resolute, for the work will try their faith; they need be prayerful, for otherwise they labor in vain; they must be believing, or they will be utterly useless.””

1. Who loved you enough to bring you to Jesus? _____

What is your biggest obstacle to inviting people to church?

2. What verses can you find about sharing or spreading the Gospel?

The paralytic’s friends went to great lengths.

Skip Heitzig – “A real friend will spare no expense to get his friends to Jesus.”

Verse 20- “And seeing their faith, He said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven you.”

3. Read the same account in Matthew 9:2. How is the wording different? What would this indicate about the man's feelings regarding his condition?

Pulpit Commentary- "For a moment the great Physician gave place to the Heart-reader; and the Lord spoke those strange, grand words to give comfort and peace to the suffering, silent, sick man. Jesus read what was in the heart of the poor paralytic; his sins distressed him more than his malady; very possibly the sad infirmity had been brought about by his old dissolute life. The soul, then, must be healed first. It was for **this**, we believe, that the story of the man with the palsy was told and retold by the first Christian preachers, and so found a place in the three Gospel narratives - this lofty claim of the Master to forgive sins; a claim so grandly supported by a miraculous act done in the open daylight in the presence of the people."

David Guzik- "Jesus knew what the man's *real* need was, and what his *greatest* need was. What good was it if the man had two whole legs, and walked right into hell with them?"

Isn't this also true for every human being?

Verse 21, "*Who can forgive sins, except God alone?*"

The Pharisees were absolutely right. Only God can forgive our sins.

Wiersbe- "The scribes and Pharisees could not deny the miracle of healing, but they considered His claim to forgive sins nothing less than blasphemy, for only God can forgive sins. For making that kind of statement, Jesus could be stoned, because He was claiming to be God."

Verse 24

4. Find other instances when Jesus referred to Himself as "Son of Man".

Wiersbe- "In Luke 5:24, we have the first recorded use of the title Son of man in Luke's gospel, where it is found twenty-three times. Our Lord's listeners were familiar with this title. It was used of the prophet Ezekiel over eighty times, and Daniel applied it to the Messiah (Dan. 7:13, 18). "Son of man" was our Lord's favorite name for Himself; this title is found at least eighty-two times in the gospel record."

In verse 25, the man that was healed went away glorifying God for what He had done.
Read 1Samuel 12:24

In verse 26, the people who witnessed the miracle were glorifying God for the strange, miraculous thing they just witnessed. Read Psalm 126:2 and Psalm 71:19

The Pharisees called Jesus a blasphemer, but the people recognized the power of the miracle.

Read John 3:18

Verses 27-39

Matthew 9:9 and Mark 2:14 also record this account. Two words. "Follow Me." It is so simple.

5. Find other instances in the Gospels when Jesus stated "Follow Me.". Who did He call in that way? Who followed and who refused? Why did they refuse?

Verse 28- *"And he left everything behind, and got up and began following Him."*

6. What was Levi / Matthew leaving behind to follow Jesus?

7. What awaited him now, instead?

Read Philippians 3:12-16

From David Guzik Commentary, “ Levi (also known as Matthew in Matthew 9:9) was a tax collector. In that day, tax collectors were despised as traitors and extortioners.

i. The Jewish people rightly considered them *traitors* because they worked for the Roman government and had the force of Roman soldiers behind them to make people pay taxes. They were the most visible Jewish traitors with Rome.

ii. The Jewish people rightly considered them *extortioners* because they could keep whatever they over-collected. A tax collector bid against others for the tax-collecting contract. The Romans awarded the contract to the highest bidder. The man collected taxes, paid the Romans what he promised, and kept the remainder. Therefore, there was great motivation for tax collectors to over-charge and cheat any way they could. It was pure profit for them.

iii. “When a Jew entered the customs service he was regarded as an outcast from society: he was disqualified as a judge or a witness in a court session, was excommunicated from the synagogue, and in the eyes of the community his disgrace extended to his family.” (Lane)

iv. “A Roman writer tells us that he once saw a monument to an honest tax collector. An honest specimen of this renegade profession was so rare that he received a monument.” (Barclay)”

Levi the tax collector became Matthew. His new name means, “The Gift of God”. Imagine what the other disciples thought every time Jesus called him Matthew. How might they have treated him? Had Peter so quickly forgotten his own words earlier in the chapter?

8. Write Peter’s words in Luke 5:8.

Verses 29-31

A grateful Levi hosted a banquet for Jesus. But, the Pharisees, once again, found fault.

Is it sometimes difficult to accept that forgiveness is available to *all* who confess Christ? Are there certain sins that you think are worse than others? We have no business praising the undeserved grace that God granted us, yet believe there are those that can never receive it.

9. What verses can you find that salvation is available to all who believe? Which stood out the most?

Warren Wiersbe noted, “The scribes and Pharisees saw Matthew and his friends as condemned sinners, but Jesus saw them as spiritually sick “patients” who needed the help of a physician. In fact, He had illustrated this when He cleansed the leper and healed the paralytic. **Sin is like a disease: it starts in a small and hidden way; it grows secretly; it saps our strength; and if it is not cured, it kills. It is tragic when sickness kills the body, but it is even more tragic when sin condemns the soul to hell.**”

Verses 33-35

Gill’s Exposition- “But the days will come,.... And that in a very little time, as they did: when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them: as their master, John, was taken away from them, and now in prison, and therefore it was no wonder they mourned and fasted; signifying, that in a short time he, the bridegroom of his church and people, should be taken away by death: and then they shall fast in those days; mourn, and be humbled, of which fasting was, a sign, for the death of their Lord, and on account of the many afflictions and persecutions they should endure for his sake.”

10. What verses from Acts confirm that they did fast and pray after Jesus' death and resurrection?

Verses 36-39

David Guzik- "Jesus' point is clear. You can't fit His new life into the old forms. This explains why Jesus did not begin a reform movement within Judaism, working with the rabbinical schools and such. Jesus says, "I haven't come to patch up your old practices. I come with a whole new set of clothes.""

11. What verses can you find about having new life in Jesus?

12. How has Jesus made your life new, since deciding to follow Him?

“And the One seated on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then He said, “Write this down, for these words are faithful and true.” 6And He told me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life. 7The one who overcomes will inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son.”

Revelation 21:5-7