

The Great Physician

Luke 5:17-39

- Jesus has shown the disciples that He can do the supernatural in all areas of their lives both **Personally** > healing Peter's mother in Law from her fever, and **Professionally** > causing a catch of fish so great that it took multiple boats to carry them to prevent them from sinking. This was necessary before He could use them to bring healing nationally to all that they came in contact with, no matter what the cause of the person's infirmity even the dreaded disease leprosy.

V17-39

- **V17-19** once people heard that Jesus was healing the sick, the blind, the crippled, and the leper, folks came from all over to hear and see the man Who had the nation all ablaze with excitement **V15**. With this kind of attention also came unjustified scrutiny from those who wanted to discredit Jesus like the established religious leaders the Pharisees and the Sadducees, they unfortunately are here not to learn, grow, or be enlightened, but to inspect and investigate.
- This is the first time in the gospel of Luke that the scribes-Pharisees are mentioned and just to give a little background on them, in the Hebrew the word "**Pharisee**" means "**to divide**" and it developed out of the ministry of the **OT** Priests. Their job originally was to teach the Jewish people to obey The Law of Moses and be separate from the heathen ungodly nations around them, by understanding then magnifying God's Law, and applying it in their daily lives.
- The movement soon became legalistic as its leaders began to misinterpret God's Word adding to its meanings and therefore laying so many burdens on the people it was impossible to serve the Lord with gladness as **Ps 100:2** says. They created a book called the Talmud that consists of **613** commandments apart from the **OT** scriptures and it is derived solely upon the interpretations of man, Jesus would say of them in **Math 23:13-15**- that they are hypocrites not to be followed.
- They pick a good time to attend one of Jesus meetings as scripture says "**The power of God was there to heal**" and its so crowded inside that no one else can enter in, so when friends of a paralytic want to bring him in front of Jesus to be healed they can't. Even though he seemingly is unable to come to Jesus he is blessed to have friends who will do whatever is necessary to bring Jesus to Him, **Mk 2:4** says they climbed up on the roof dug through the pitch and tile, lifted up their friend unto the roof and lowered him down right in front of Jesus for all to see wow!
- Its dangerous to have a home fellowship that Jesus is in, you don't know what might happen to your – ha ha. **V20** before Jesus addresses the **physical healing**, He first deals with the **spiritual need**. Make no mistake it was the desire to be physically healed that drove the man and his friends to Jesus, but Jesus sees a more pressing need and that is "**salvation**". People whatever it is that's driving someone to seek help, believers should use that which has their attention to bring them face to face with Jesus, as He is what is really missing in their lives.

- **V21-22** the religious leaders don't like this at all, instead of rejoicing they get offended that Jesus has proclaimed this man's sins forgiven. I'm sure some in the crowd also felt this way, maybe even his friends as they went to a lot of trouble to see their friend healed of paralysis, and now the teacher only seems to be concerned with his spiritual problems. But Jesus knows his real need as what good is it if the man had **2** whole legs and walked right into hell with them.
- **V23-26** the religious leaders acknowledged that only God had the power to heal, so if Jesus is claiming to heal then He also is saying "He is God" and in **V24** we see the first mention of the title "**The Son of Man**" in Luke's gospel. This title was used of Him more in the gospels than "**The Son of God**" as it related him to the Messiah and it identified Him with the people.
- You may ask yourself "**how do I know when people's sin's have been forgiven**"? I'll say when people who once were paralyzed, powerless, and lame, begin to walk, leap, and praise God, and you see sinfulness and foolishness replaced by righteousness and Godliness, then you like these people can confidently know, that person's sins have been forgiven, and now they walk in newness of life. He no longer needs the bed, no longer needs to be carried, now he's rejoicing.
- **V27-28** the people have seen some strange things roof falling, bed descending, Jesus forgiving, and the paralyzed walking, now Luke mentions something even stranger "**a tax collector believing**". Up to this point Jesus has dealt with a Demoniac, a Paralytic, a Leper, and now a Tax Collector. Levi is Mathew and in that day tax collectors were despised, even hated, seen as traitors and extortioners, as they worked for the Roman government the Jewish oppressors.
- Tax collectors would bid against each other for contracts and the Romans awarded the contract to the highest bidder, the man then collected the taxes by over taxing the people and paying the Romans what he owed, afterward he could keep the remainder, therefore it was great motivation for tax collectors to overcharge as it was all profit for them, thus extortioners was a correct term for them. They had already questioned Jesus for saying "**your sins are forgiven**" now in front of the same crowd Jesus approaches a despised Tax collector and says "**follow Me**".
- He's gone too far now, its one thing to say something questionable, but to keep company with someone who works for Gentiles, that's sinful and unforgivable. What I love about this is Mathew instantly obeys Jesus call, and leaves everything and follows Him. In Mathew's account of this same story **Math 9:9** it says Jesus "**saw a man**" that meant while everyone else saw a tax collector, a publican, an extortioner, someone to despise, Jesus saw pass all of that, and saw the need, "a man". **V28** describes the total abandonment it will take for anyone to follow Jesus
- **A.** He left all- Mind, **B.** Rose up- body, **C.** Followed- soul, heart, notice the order, as he left all before he rose up, too many times people will rise up before they have left all which leads to them when it gets hard to turn back. The people who will soar the highest in the Lord, are those who are willing to sacrifice for the Lord, and leave the stuff behind. Satan wants to weigh us down with the stuff of this world but Jesus wants to set us free, mind, body and spirit.

- **V29-32** although Mathew gave up so much to follow Jesus he isn't sad, in fact he is so excited about his newfound faith that he throws a party for Jesus and invites all his friends, so this isn't "a Jesus only party" it's a "you need Jesus party" big difference. In the Talmud the hem of a rabbi garment couldn't touch even the dust of a tax collector or they would be unclean, so to see Jesus sitting next to them, eating with them, talking to them, was unconscionable.
- **V31** Jesus response is the world looks at sinners as castaways, something to discard and, but Jesus sees them as patients in need of a doctor. The great thing about Jesus being our doctor is > **1st** His diagnosis is always accurate, **2nd** His cure is always perfect, **3rd** The bill is already paid. Think about it He knew what our problem already was, He knew we were trying all the wrong things to fill it, and when we came to Him, He washed us, cleansed us, and secured heaven for us, with His forgiveness, and afterward instead of presenting us with a bill, He gave us peace.
- **V33-35** when they couldn't attack Jesus then they attack His followers, asking "why don't your followers fast like John's"? Jesus answers them while I'm with them there's no need to fast, but once I leave they will fast, meaning today we do fast, to draw closer to the Lord and put our flesh under subjection, but when we're in glory no need to fast because Jesus will be there and we will have our glorified bodies which will be sinless. These questions are an attempt to get us to lose our joy, if Satan can get you and I to major in the minors, focus on the minute and miss the truth
- **V36-39** Jesus tells them He didn't come to patch up the old, He came to give us the new, there will no longer be a divide between Jew and Gentile, as He will usher in the "Church" bringing both Jew and Gentile together into a completely new body > **Eph 2:16**. So in using this metaphor the Jews would know that you can't put new wine in old wine skins as it will cause the old wine skins to burst, so the new life of the Spirit cannot be forced into the old wineskins of Judaism.