

## PROVEN POWER | LUKE 5:12-26 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 07/013/2025

\* I. Jesus Cleanses a Leper (12-16) | II. Jesus' Power to Forgive (17-26)

**INTRO:** Jesus is now well into His ministry as **He continues to minister in the region of Galilee**. Today, we will examine events from Luke Gospel, which expound on **Cleansing** and **Forgiveness**. \*

**I. JESUS CLEANSSES A LEPER (12-16)** – **READ:** Leprosy was a contagious skin disease, which often resulted in *oozing soars* and part of *your flesh falling off*. – Interestingly enough, **leprosy started beneath the skin and eventually manifested outwardly**. – Much like sin, **LEPROSY is DEEPER than the skin (Lev 13:3)...**

- It cannot be remedied by “surface measures” – *e.g., Ointments or even Dietary adjustments*
- Can “spread to defile” others (**Lev 13:44-45; Rom 5:12**) – *the result of Adam’s sin, death spread to all men*
- Must be avoided (**Lev 13:46**) – *those affected were to dwell alone, outside the camp*
- (**Lev 13:52**) informs us that even ‘leprous garments’ were to be burned in the fire!

**A. Petitions of a Leper (12-14)** – **Here was a man who needed to be changed!** – Leprosy made him a **social outcast!** – When people were near him, he would have to shout, ***“Unclean, unclean,”*** so that others could stay clear of him. – *His condition and circumstances would wear down any human being!*

**1. The Leper “*saw Jesus*” and Sought out after Him! (12)** – When He found Him, he petitioned Him saying, *“If you are willing, You can make me clean.”*

- This man was tired of being an outcast, he was tired of his decaying flesh, and he was most certainly, tired of being unclean, so what did he do? **He Petitioned Jesus!** – **He came to the ONLY ONE who could REMOVE His condition!**
- This teaches us that **LOST SINNERS** must recognize that they need to be cleansed of their sin.

**2. The Leper was Touched (13)** – *Jesus did not cringe at the leper's presence...He did not look at him in disgust.* Instead, *He reached out and touched the leper.* And His gracious words, commanded the man's flesh to be restored to normal... ***“Be Cleansed.”*** – **The Healing was IMMEDIATE!** By touching the leper, He showed compassion to the one who was believed to be untouchable!

**a. Jesus WAS WILLING to cleanse this leper!** – He saw that this leper willingly acted in FAITH!

**b. Jesus was Not Affected by his leprosy!** – *“The hand of Jesus was not polluted by touching the leper's body, but the leper's whole body was cleansed by the touch of that holy hand.”* – F. Farrar (Expound... **Song: LEPER**, by Terry Clark – *“It was my broken heart that was mended by the touch of his hand!”*)

**3. Jesus instructed the cleansed man what to do (14)** – ***“Tell no one:”*** Jesus was mindful that the attention around His miracles could jeopardize future activity in a city.

**b. In accordance with (Lev 14:3-4,20), Jesus told the man to make an offering before the priest.** – It was the **task of the priest** to examine for active leprosy and determine true healing, then to **make atonement** with acceptable offerings for the cleansing! – This teaches that when a person is cleansed, they should then follow through with **holiness** and **obedience** to the Lord. (**Rom 12:1**)

**B. People Hear of Jesus' Works (15)** – ***“The Report”*** – In his excitement, the man clearly disregarded Jesus' instructions. – (**Mark 1:45**) reveals that, *“...he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places...”*

1. Great multitudes came to hear Jesus (15a) – *Are you one who has heard of Jesus, but fail to respond?*

2. Great multitudes came to be healed by Jesus (15b) – Jesus desired to heal many of their infirmities, but **in particular He was always looking for faith** (Heb 11:6) *Not just healing, but for Salvation!*

P/A: Jesus can make us clean! – Jesus was willing to lay down his life so that we can be **cleansed of our sin**. – Our response to Jesus' sacrifice, should be **to offer ourselves as a testimony** to those in the church and those around us! – Ironically, Jesus told the man to keep quiet, but he told everybody! Now **Jesus commands His disciples to tell everybody...** and we keep quite!

C. Practice of Prayer (16) – Withdrawing to a place of solitude to pray was a **regular practice** for Jesus. He was pre-eminently a **Person of prayer**, maintaining close fellowship with His Father.

- Jesus' moments of solitude is emphasized throughout the Gospels. – It's how He began His ministry. It's how He made critical decisions. It's how He dealt with difficult emotions such as grief. It was how He dealt with continual ministry demands, it's how He managed His emotions. Ultimately, Solitude and Prayer is how Jesus prepared for His death on the cross!
- Jesus' value of Solitude and Prayer to the Father, **PROVES how He acquired POWER!**

**II. JESUS' POWER TO FORGIVE (17-26)** – With the leper, Jesus' **PROVEN POWER** was revealed Individually. In this story, Jesus' **POWER** is **PROVEN Publicly!**

A. Power Was Present (17) – **READ:** (Mark 2:1-12) also records this event, revealing that this took place in **Capernaum** (*Possibly Simon's house*). – This special setting had **masses of people gathered around** as Jesus's taught them while inside the house. – *Luke tells us specifically of two things present...*

1. Present **Investigators (17a)** – *Pharisees and Scribes* – These religious leaders were sitting by **with critical eyes and hearts**, ready to twist and pounce upon some word of Jesus.
2. Present **Power (17b)** – **Power was Present TO HEAL!** – Quite possibly, Luke mentions this because **he knew Jesus to be the Divine Physician**, or maybe because this was a special moment which would require a Powerful Object Lesson for His religious critics.

P/A – *Whatever the case, once again we see that **PRAYER Precedes POWER!** – Jesus was **READY to PROVE His POWER and AUTHORITY to FORGIVE SIN**, as we see in the following verses...*

B. Powerful Faith Demonstrated (18-20) – **READ:** All of a sudden, *a paralyzed man was before Him.* – **Describe the scene:** *Jesus Looked Up, He looked down and He looked all around.* He knew the time was now for the object lesson! *But first...*

1. Notice the **EFFORTS of the Faithful Friends (18)** – They knew that their friend was **PARALYZED** (*Lit. without power*) They did everything possible to **BRING HIM TO JESUS!** (*They knew Jesus was the Healer!*)
  - Many of Our Friends are simply laying there... **Paralyzed in their Bed of Ignorance!** – **They have NO POWER to come to Jesus**, because they are paralyzed by the world, an addiction, a job, a relationship, etc. – **They're Completely Unaware that they can be healed!** – Q: **What can you do about it?** **BRING THEM TO JESUS!** – *Be assured that when you do, there will be obstacles...*

**2. Notice the CROWDS (19)** – When we are trying so hard to bring our friends to Jesus, we often see that **the Crowds get in the way.** *(Speak to them **one on one**, apart from the crowds – **Be faithful to Inform them of the WAY** to Jesus. Invite them to church... **give them a ride!** – **Lay them before Jesus!**)*

**3. Notice Jesus' RESPONSE (20)** – *As He looked up... **He smiled!*** – The men successfully brought their friend to Jesus. – **Jesus saw their action as a demonstration of their faith!** This is the kind of faith that God honors. – *As He looked down,* His heart was filled with compassion. **He immediately forgave the man of his sins,** *“Man, your sins are forgiven you.”* *(In front of everybody!)*

- His friends may have been taken back that Jesus did not immediately heal the man's body. – They did not understand that **the common root of all pain and suffering is Man's Sinful Condition.**
- Tradition holds that this man was paralyzed because of a contracted sexual disease. – So then, when Jesus forgave his sins and shame Jesus was addressing the greatest need... Forgiveness!

**C. Power to Forgive Revealed (21-24)** – **READ: As Jesus GRANTED FORGIVENESS** the *Pharisees questioned His actions* (21). – Luke provides their thoughts which questioned, “WHO.” Afterall, **Only God had the Authority to Forgive sins...** so, **WHO is Jesus to make this claim!**

**1. Human Reasoning (21)** – Although their reasoning was sound, **they made the mistake of failing to recognize Jesus as the Son of God, who is able to pardon sins.** *(This is why many of them failed to believe in Jesus!)* – Cole stated, *“If **He** were not divine, then he was indeed a blasphemer; there could be no third way out.”* – Cole – *So...*

**2. He Called them On It! (22)** – *Jesus perceived their reasoning* – *“was in their hearts.”* **(FYI – Jesus is OMNISCIENT and He knows everything that we murmur in our hearts!)**

**3. He Proves It! (23-24)** – Jesus **KNEW** that the Pharisees **could not see** the man's sins being forgiven. So, **to PROVE that He had the POWER and AUTHORITY of God Alone,** He posed a **QUESTION,** which would extract an answer from them... *“Which is easier, TO SAY?”* – **[Be Forgiven]** or **Be Healed?**

- a. It's obvious that anyone can **SAY** that one is forgiven, because **it requires no proof!** *But...*
- b. It stands to reason, that if Jesus could cure the man's illness, **He could also pardon his sin!**
- c. It was time to **PROVE HIS POWER (24)** – So, He makes an **emphatic statement,** followed by **empowering action,** *“But that you may **KNOW** that the Son of Man has Power on earth to forgive sins”* – He then turned to the man gave the paralytic the **“Power to Walk.”** *(Imagine the tension in the room)*

**D. Power of Proof Brings Perplexity (25-26)** – **READ: Immediately he rose as Jesus commanded!**  
– He did everything that Jesus told him to do... he picked up his stuff and went home!

**1. Proof of Real Spiritual Forgiveness (25)** – Is demonstrated by those who **rise up, walk, leap, and praise God!** – His healing was **EVIDENCE of Jesus' Power to Heal Paralysis and His Authority to Pardon Sins!** **(Psalm 32:2)** *Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

2. Imagine if Jesus had Failed: *His ministry would be shattered. The crowd would slowly make their way out of the house. The scribes would smile and say, "He can't heal or forgive." The four men would struggle to pull up the paralyzed man who looked more dejected and embarrassed than ever. The homeowner would look at his roof and think it was all for nothing.* – Guzik

3. But Jesus DIDN'T FAIL! – The HEALING was Immediate, allowing this man to walk on his own two feet. The FORGIVENESS is Everlasting, allowing the man a brand new walk with God!

4. Proven Power brought Glory to God (26) – *All were amazed!* – They were perplexed at the "strange things" – House crowding, Roof opening, Bed lowering, Paralyzed walking, and Pharisee's befuddling! – (Rom 11:33) *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

**CLOSING THOUGHTS:** These two healings REVEAL that Jesus has PROVEN POWER! He has the Proven Power to heal any physical infirmity, BY HIS WORD. But MOST IMPORTANTLY He has the Power and Authority to FORGIVE US of our sins and the SHAME that is attached to them.

**There is No Sickness too great... There is No Sin too bad... That Jesus cannot remedy!**

- ONLY JESUS CAN MAKE US CLEAN!
- ONLY JESUS CAN MAKE US RIGHT WITH THE FATHER!
- DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

Maybe there are some here today that need the HEALING TOUCH of Jesus.

If that is you... then I ask you to STAND [by faith] and walk to this altar to receive prayer right now.