

Sunday Service Summary

Overview

This Sunday's service focused on the healing of the leper in Luke 5:12-16, exploring the depth of Jesus' compassion, the cost of discipleship, and the spiritual parallels between leprosy and sin. The gathering included announcements, encouragement for community involvement, and a detailed teaching on Jesus' power to restore even when damage seems irreversible.

Core Scripture

Luke 5:12-16 (NKJV):

And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him. And He charged him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded." However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear; and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Announcements & Community Life

- **Home Groups:** Three active home groups—Thursday night (Dell & Michelle Willie's, College Place, 6:30pm), and two on Sunday evenings (including at the pastor's home near the open mission). All are encouraged to join for fellowship and growth.
- **VBS & Summer Camp:** Interest meeting for volunteers to help with VBS in early/mid-July. Emphasized the life-changing impact of children's ministry—many in the congregation were saved through such programs.
- **Men's Breakfast:** Scheduled for March 21st, 7:30am at the church.
- **Live Language Translation:** Now available during services, with support for over 100 languages via smartphone and Bluetooth earbuds.
- **Midweek Ministries:** Wednesday night church includes youth group and children's ministry (up to 5th grade). Youth group not available Sunday mornings.

Worship & Communion

- Short worship set followed by communion (postponed from the previous week).

Teaching Highlights

Setting the Context in Luke

- Luke's Gospel begins with the birth and early life of Jesus, emphasizing the fulfillment of prophecy and the favor of God.
- Jesus' ministry demonstrates both His compassion and the challenge of accepting His authority.
- In Luke 5, Jesus calls Peter after the miraculous catch of fish, revealing the paradoxical human response to God's blessing—awareness of unworthiness and reluctance to fully surrender.

The Healing of the Leper

- The leper, "full of leprosy" (late-stage), approaches Jesus with bold faith: "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."
- Jesus responds not with caution but with compassion—He touches the untouchable, declaring, "I am willing, be cleansed." The healing is immediate.
- The act of touching the leper broke social and religious taboos; Jesus' holiness overcomes impurity rather than being contaminated by it.

Leprosy as a Picture of Sin

- Leprosy in the ancient world caused numbness, disfigurement, and social isolation—paralleling the effects of sin on the human heart: numbness, neglect, and alienation.
- The damage from leprosy (like advanced diabetic neuropathy) often comes from neglect due to loss of feeling, not the disease itself—a metaphor for spiritual numbness and unchecked sin.
- Jesus' healing power is not limited by the extent of damage; He restores what seems beyond repair.

The Levitical Cleansing Ritual (Leviticus 14)

- Jesus tells the healed man to show himself to the priest and offer the prescribed sacrifices—a ritual rarely performed due to the incurability of leprosy.
- The ritual involves two birds, cedar wood, scarlet yarn, and hyssop—symbols pointing to Christ's sacrifice and the cleansing power of His blood.

- The anointing of the cleansed leper with blood and oil (on ear, thumb, and toe) parallels the consecration of priests, signifying full restoration and acceptance by God.

The Cost and Call of Discipleship

- Receiving God’s mercy comes with the call to follow and obey—salvation and lordship are inseparable.
- The challenge is to accept not only Jesus’ help but also His authority over our lives.

The Gift of Pain & Conviction

- Physical pain protects the body; spiritual conviction protects the soul.
- Numbness (spiritual or physical) leads to neglect and destruction.
- The “wounds of a friend” (Proverbs 27:5-6) and conviction from God’s Word are gifts, not curses.
- Warning against “searing the conscience” (1 Timothy 4:1-5) and isolating oneself from correction.

Personal Reflection & Application

- Are there areas in your life where you’ve become numb or have silenced conviction?
- Jesus is willing and able to heal even when the damage seems irreversible.
- Accept the gift of renewed feeling and conviction—don’t resist the alarms God places in your life.
- Let Christ’s touch restore you, and respond with obedience and gratitude.

Closing Prayer

- Thanksgiving for Jesus’ willingness to restore and heal even when all hope seems lost.
- Prayer for courage to accept conviction, embrace restored sensitivity, and walk in fellowship and obedience.

“Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

He replied, “I am willing; be cleansed.”