

Luke 3

8/30/18

SCCC

Luke 3:1 (NIV) *In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar--when Pontius Pilate was governor* of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene--  
 V.2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert.

1. "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar--when Pontius Pilate was governor"
  - a. We have jumped forward **18 years** from chapter 2
  - b. Luke is a precise writer
  
2. "the word of God **came to John** son of Zechariah in the desert." (V.2)
  - a. John was supposed to be a priest – his father was
    - i. John hid from the populous outside of Jerusalem
  - b. He rejected the corrupt priesthood of the day – became a prophet

V.3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, *preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

V.4 As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

V.5 Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

V.6 And all mankind will see God's salvation."

1. John was last of the O.T. prophets
  - a. He even dressed like an O.T. prophet
 

**Matthew 11:7** And as these were going *away*, Jesus began to speak to the multitudes about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

<sup>8</sup> " But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing*? Behold, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' palaces.

<sup>9</sup> " But why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet.

<sup>10</sup> "This is the one about whom it is written, '  
 BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.'

<sup>11</sup> "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

- b. His message was the message of Elijah – different than ours today

**Malachi 3:1** " Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>2</sup> "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

**Isaiah 40:3-5** A voice is calling, " Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> "Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley;

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see *it* together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

2. "preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins"
- Explain the difference between the kingdom gospel & gospel of grace
  - Repentance was a message of the past & future
  - This was the message of John

**Matthew 3:1** Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,

<sup>2</sup> " Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

<sup>3</sup> For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, " THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ' MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'"

- Even Christ didn't preach the gospel of grace

**Matthew 4:17 (NIV)** From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

e. Jesus also said other things we wouldn't say today

**Matthew 10:5(NIV)** <sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans.

<sup>6</sup> Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'

**Matthew 15:21(NIV)** <sup>21</sup> Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

<sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession."

<sup>23</sup> Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

<sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

<sup>25</sup> The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

<sup>26</sup> He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."

<sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

f. There is a definite difference between O.T. message & N.T.

V.7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

V.8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

V.9 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.")

1. "do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'"
  - a. Their claim to salvation was "Abraham was their father"

**John 8:38**(NIV) <sup>38</sup> I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from **your** father."

<sup>39</sup> "Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did.

b.

V.10 "**What should we do** then?" the crowd asked.)

V.11 John answered, "The man with two tunics **should share with him who has none**, and the one who has food should do the same."

\*Is this how people are saved???

V.12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

V.13 "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

V.14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely--be content with your pay."

\*Is salvation procured by "**doing**"

V.15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ.

1. "wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ"
  - a. John's gospel speaks of this

**John 1:19** And this is the witness of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

<sup>20</sup> And he confessed, and did not deny, and he confessed, " I am **not** the Christ."

<sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he •said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup> They said then to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" **V.23 (NP)**

<sup>23</sup> He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

b. But Jesus said he **was** Elijah!

**Matthew 11:12**(NIV) <sup>12</sup> From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

<sup>13</sup> For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John.

<sup>14</sup> And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> **He who has ears, let him hear.**

V.16 John answered them all, "I baptize you with (#1)water<sup>(John's water)</sup>. But one more powerful than I **will come**, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the (#2)Holy Spirit and with (#3)fire.

V.17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

1. "I baptize you with (#1)water<sup>(John's water)</sup>. But one more powerful than I...He will baptize...with...(#2)Holy Spirit...(#3)fire

a. There are 4 more baptisms mentioned in Scripture

i. Baptism of living for dead

**1 Corinthians 15:29** (NIV) Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?

ii. Believer's baptism

**Matthew 28:19** (NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

iii. Baptism of Moses –

**1 Corinthians 10:2** (NIV) They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

iv. Jesus' baptism

**Matthew 3:13** (NIV) Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

b. John says, "I'm not the final authority – another is coming"

V.18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the **good news** to them.

V.19 But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done,

V.20 Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

V.21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened

V.22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

1. "Jesus was baptized too"
  - a. Not in chronological order

**\*The story shifts for John to Christ**

V.23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli...

**V.38** the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

1. "the son of Adam"
  - a. Luke goes back to Adam b/c he is showing Christ is a man
    - i. Matthew's account of the Gospel goes to Abraham
  - b. He is called the last Adam – as compared to the first Adam
 

**1 Corinthians 15:45** (NIV) So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.
2. "the son of God"
  - a. Adam was made in God's image
 

**Genesis 1:27** (NIV) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
  - b. Adam's offspring were made in his image
 

**Genesis 5:1** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.  
<sup>2</sup> He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them

"man." **V.3** (NP)

<sup>3</sup> When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

\*It goes back to Adam instead of Abraham as in Gospel of Matthew

**Luke 4:1** Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,

V.2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

1. "he was tempted by the devil"

a. Not a sin to be tempted

**Luke 4:1** Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was **led by the Spirit** in the desert,

V.3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, (#1) tell this stone to become bread."

1. "If you are the Son of God, (#1) tell this stone to become bread."

a. The devil isn't asking if He is Christ – he knows!

b. Satan tempted His flesh b/c He was hungry

i. Satan used that on Adam & Eve

**1 John 2:15** Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

<sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

c. It worked on the **first Adam** but won't work on the **last Adam**

d. Was Christ legitimately hungry? Yes

i. **Can't** fulfill a legitimate need in an illegitimate way!

**Matthew 6:31** "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?'"

V.32 (NP)

<sup>32</sup> "For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

<sup>33</sup> "But **seek first** His kingdom and His righteousness; and **all these things shall be added** to you.

ii.

e. Satan is also trying to separate the **physical** from the **spiritual**

i. Everything you & I do should be for God

**1 Corinthians 10:31** Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

ii.

V.4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"

1. "Jesus answered"

a. Quoted from Scripture

**Deuteronomy 8:3** "And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

V.5 The devil led him up to a high place and (<sup>#2</sup>) showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

1. "showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world"

a. Satan has owned all the kingdoms of the world from the fall of man

b. God has stopped him from doing much of what he would have done in the way of evil

i. Evil meaning – worshipped by mankind

V.6 And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.

V.7 So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

V.8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

1. "I will give you all their authority and splendor"

a. It was Satan's to give

b. Quoted Scripture again

**Deuteronomy 6:13** " You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him, and swear by His name.

c. Satan tempted His eyes by "**showing**" Him all the kingdoms of the world

**Jn.2:16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the **lust of the eyes** and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

V.9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, <sup>(#3)</sup>"throw yourself down from here."

V.10 For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;

V.11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

1. "throw yourself down from here"

a. If He had thrown Himself down w/out injury they crowd would have worshipped Him immediately

b. Satan tempted Him to accept worship illegitimately

**Jn.2:16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and **the boastful pride of life**<sup>(pride)</sup>, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

c. How did Satan tempt Adam & Eve? – exact same way

**Genesis 3:6** When the woman saw that the tree was <sup>(#1)</sup>good for food, and that <sup>(#2)</sup>it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was <sup>(#3Pride)</sup>desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

d. Why did God allow Christ to be tempted?

i. Somewhat beyond us but in part to prove that He was Who He said He was – The last Adam proved He could do what first Adam couldn't do

V.12 (NP)

V.12 Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

1. "It says"

a. Christ used Scripture again – to fend off Satan

**Deuteronomy 6:16** (NIV) Do not test the LORD your God as you did at Massah.

i. W/out knowing Scripture how can you fend him off?

ii. That is how you resist Satan

b. We all have to deal w/ Satan

**Ephesians 6:10** Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

**V.17** And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word** of God.

c.

V.13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

V.14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

V.15 He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

V.16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.

V.17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

V.18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

V.19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

V.20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him,

V.21 (NP)

V.21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

1. "he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and **sat down**"
  - a. Here is how it went:
    - i. A scroll of Isaiah was found in the dead sea scrolls – 24" long
    - ii. A typical synagogue service opened with an **invocation**
    - iii. Then the **recitation** of the traditional Hebrew confession of faith
 

**Deuteronomy 6:4** (NIV) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
    - iv. This was followed by prayer and readings from the Law and from the Prophets, (he did that **standing**)
    - v. Christ read from
 

**Isaiah 61:1-2** The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives, And freedom to prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup> To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD)))  
**(Christ stopped reading here & sat down)**, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,
    - vi. This was paraphrased in Aramaic.
    - vii. Then there was a **sermon** given by one of the men of the congregation or perhaps by a visiting rabbi (he would **sit down** to explain Scripture)
    - viii. If a priest was present, the service closed with a benediction. Otherwise, one of the laymen prayed and the meeting was dismissed.

V.22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

V.23 (NP)

V.23 Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum."

1. "Physician, heal yourself"

a. It think this refers to while He was on the cross

**Matthew 27:42** (NIV) "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.

**Luke 23:35** (NIV) The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

b.

V.24 "I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

V.25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land.

V.26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon.

1. "in Zarephath"

a. This ancient Phoenician city

b. Gentile

V.27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed--**only Naaman the Syrian.**"

V.28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this.

V.29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff.

1. "drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill"

a. What made them so mad???

i. They were mad b/c He was used Gentiles as good examples

V.30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

V.31 (NP)

V.31 Then *he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee*, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people.

1. "he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee"
  - a. He will make Capernaum His headquarters from then on
  - b. That will be bad for Capernaum in some ways
    - i. They will be held to a higher standard b/c of that  
**Luke 10:15**(NIV) And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? **No**, you will go down to the depths.  
<sup>16</sup> "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects Me rejects him who sent me."

V.32 *They were amazed at his teaching*, because *His message had authority*.

1. "They were **amazed** at his teaching"
  - a. "amazed" means to be knocked senseless
2. "His message had authority"
  - a. That is the difference between normal teaching & Spirit anointed teaching
    - i. The Scribes & Pharisees had no anointing

V.33 *In the synagogue* there was *a man possessed by a demon*, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice,

V.34 "Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? *Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!*"

V.35 *"Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly.* "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

1. "In the synagogue"
  - a. The synagogue started during captivity b/c couldn't go to temple
  - b. It required 10 adult men to start one
  - c. It for Bible study (their Bible)
2. "a man possessed by a demon"
  - a. What is a demon?
  - b. Are they active today?
  - c. He is called "unclean" – evil in NIV but means unclean
    - i. B/c Romans believed in clean & unclean demons
3. "Have you come to destroy us?"
  - d. Christ has total control over demonic world
4. "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly"

- e. He will accept no testimony from the evil world
  - f. There is a lot man knows nothing about at this time **V.36 (NP)**
- V.36 All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!"
1. "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders"
    - a. No one had ever been like that before

V.37 And the news about Him spread throughout the surrounding area.

V.38 Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her.

1. "the home of Simon"
  - a. Home town of Peter & Andrew – fishermen
  - b. Luke will record that the Lord does a miracle & then calls disciples – 3 times in that order

V.39 So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

1. "rebuked the fever"
  - a. The fever obeyed just as the demon did
  - b. She was healed completely – immediately started waiting on them

V.40 When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

1. "When the sun was setting"
  - a. The Sabbath is over
2. "**all** who had...sickness, and laying his hands on **each one**"
  - a. None were overlooked b/c they lacked faith

V.41 Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.

V.42 At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.

1. "At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place"
  - a. This was a very long day
  - b. Yet Christ was up early to pray

**Mark 1:35** (NIV) Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

V.43 But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."

V.44 And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

5:1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God,

V.2 he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.

V.3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

V.4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

V.5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

V.6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

V.7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

V.8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

V.9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,

V.10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

V.11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

V.12 While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

V.13 Jesus reached out his hand and **touch**ed the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

V.14 Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

V.15 Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

V.16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

V.17 One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.

V.18 Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.

V.19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

V.20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

V.21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

V.22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?"

V.23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?

V.24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

V.25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

V.26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

V.27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him,

V.28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

V.29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.

V.30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

V.31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

V.32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

V.33 They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."

V.34 Jesus answered, "Can you make the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them?"

V.35 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

V.36 He told them this parable: "No one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old.

V.37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.

V.38 No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.

V.39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, 'The old is better.'"