

Sermon: Desperation, Compassion, and Healing.

Series: Luke: The Gospel for Everyone.

Scripture: Luke 5:12-26.

Date: April 7, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Can you describe a time when you felt completely desperate like the leper or the paralyzed man? What did you do?

b) How do these two stories demonstrate that our sin problem is our greatest problem? Do you see the removal of your sin as your most desperate need in life? Explain.

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Read 5:20-24 again. In what way is Jesus claiming to be God here, without saying it directly?

b) The leper declares that Jesus can heal (he is powerful), and Jesus responds that he is willing to heal (he is loving). What desperate situation in your life do you need to apply these two truths about God to today – God wants what is best for you (loving), and he can give you what is best for you (powerful)?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) How do the two healing stories in this section point us toward the cross of Christ? Why will Jesus' healing and forgiveness require his death on the cross?

b) When Jesus touched the leper he didn't become unclean; the leper became clean. In the same way when Christ "touches" us we are fully cleansed. Read Colossians 2:13-14. Do you see yourself as fully forgiven of all your sin in Christ? How might your life be different if you trusted this glorious truth even more?

APPLICATION

a) Jesus had compassion on outsiders. Do you? Is there a specific outsider or group of outsiders that God has been nudging you toward? Is there a specific act of compassion that you need to perform this week?

b) Is there anything in your life that you are desperately trusting God for? Keep asking! How can your small group come alongside you like the friends of the paralyzed man to encourage you? Pray for you? Carry you?

PRAYER

- Praise God for his forgiveness and cleansing in our lives.
- Confess ways that you have failed to trust God's power and his loving kindness in your life.
- Thank Jesus for going to the cross for our cleansing.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower your compassion toward outsiders.