

JESUS OVER SIN

+ **SESSION IN A SENTENCE:**

Jesus alone is able to go beyond physical healing and forgive sins as well.

+ **BACKGROUND PASSAGE:**

Luke 5

+ **SETTING:**

Jesus had been stirring up trouble in the religious world. Though His early life had little significance on Jerusalem's religious elite, the uproar began just after His temptation in the desert (Luke 4:1-13). He began a ministry in His hometown but was run out of the synagogue with His seemingly blasphemous teaching (vv. 14-30). Then He continued to perform miracles, casting out demons and healing the sick. But for the religious zealots, it was the last straw when He started forgiving sin.

DAY 1

READ:

Luke 4:14-30

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Luke 4:16-30

NOTES



KEY DOCTRINE #42: SIN'S EFFECT IN THE WORLD

Sin does not only impact our relationship with God; it is also the root of our broken relationships with the people around us. Human sinfulness is the reason the creation groans in anticipation for redemption and deliverance from its bondage to evil powers (Romans 8:20-22). Sin has infected and redirected the social structures of society, leading to injustice and oppression. The distorting effects of sin are visible all around us, but the good news of the gospel is that the battle against these powers will be won through the work of Christ.

In setting the stage for this coming week's lesson, let's consider what Luke records in the passages leading up to it. At the beginning of chapter 4, Jesus is tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. Then, "in the power of the Spirit," He returned to His hometown, teaching in the synagogues where everyone praised Him (4:14-15).

Until He made a stand, that is. People in Nazareth liked their successful hometown boy. They liked Jesus who taught well, who performed some miracles, and who was causing quite a stir for His amazing rabbi skills. But when He was handed a scroll on the Sabbath day in His home church, the opinion changed.

Jesus wasn't okay with people just liking Him for His preaching; He wanted them to know Him as King of kings. He didn't come to just lead and guide. He didn't come to start a rebellion. He came as Messiah, the promised Son of God, the Holy One of Israel. The Scripture He read from Isaiah 61 prophesied the Messiah, and He didn't mince words when He said that today, "this Scripture has been fulfilled" (Luke 4:21). This would have been like the local kid from a garage band claiming he was the next Jimi Hendrix, or the girl at the local gym promising she'd win Olympic gold. Except that, of course, with Jesus, it was true.

You can see the looks of consternation and the stifled chuckles. Who was this local kid kidding? When He scolded them for their doubt, they were enraged and tried to kill Him. To them, Jesus "the Superstar" was okay, but Jesus the Messiah was too much.

How do we know Jesus is who He claimed to be?

DAY 2

READ:

Luke 5:12-26

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Luke 5:12-15

NOTES

Luke's insight into certain Bible passages is invaluable. In the opening words of today's passage, we see that there was a man with leprosy. This wasn't a guy who was still in the early stages, where it might just turn out to be eczema. As we say in Tennessee, he was eaten up with it.

The man saw Jesus, fell facedown, and begged Him to cleanse him. His statement of faith was profound, believing that if Jesus was willing, He could heal the man (v. 12). What complete surrender. What amazing trust in the One who most certainly can cleanse but may not choose to do so.

There are similarities between this passage and the one about the healing of the paralytic: in both instances, the ailing person was healed "immediately" (5:13,25). In both cases, the healing caused a stir. In both cases, Jesus healed with power through speaking.

But there were also differences: in one passage He touched the man; not so in the other. In one, He instructed the healed man to go make a sacrifice at the temple; none was given in the other. By comparing the two passages side by side, we see that Jesus was not only all-powerful over every disease and ailment but He had total freedom in how He would heal. He sticks to the Father's plan and glory, not just in Luke 5 but in our lives today.

What are you hoping and praying that Jesus would miraculously do in your life, and have you surrendered it to Him?

DAY 3

READ:

Luke 5:17-26

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Luke 5:17-20

NOTES

A good parent doesn't give a young child what he wants but what he needs.

As a toddler, my son loved a few things with a passion: cherry tomatoes, black olives, and Thomas the train. If I had said yes to everything he wanted, tomatoes and olives would have made up the majority of his diet, and watching Thomas movies would have filled all of his waking hours.

Did I love him? Totally. Did I meet his every want? Not at all. He could have a few cherry tomatoes and olives with his dinner, if he ate other things. And Thomas movies were a rare special treat, but reading Thomas books and playing with his wooden trains took up most of his day.

God does the same thing. With our toddler-like brains, we come to Jesus in prayer, knowing exactly what we want. He hears our requests and sometimes omnisciently says, "No." We may throw a spiritual temper tantrum, but He loves us too much to give us what we ask, giving us instead what we need.

Four friends did the same thing for a paralytic: they knew what they wanted for him, and that was healing. They sacrificially loved him enough to carry him to Jesus. Luke didn't record any words from their mouths as they ripped open the roof and lowered him to Jesus. They just thought he needed to walk. Jesus saw their faith and knew their request but realized something was more pressing than walking.

When you think about your recent prayer requests, what might be the true need behind them?

DAY 4

READ:

Luke 5:17-26

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Luke 5:21-25

NOTES

There's a big difference between knowing and believing. For instance, many people know about God and the Bible: He created everything, He led His people through the Red Sea, He established them as the nation of Israel, and He sent Jesus to die.

But if you press into what they know and press into what they actually believe about God, you'll see that the two do not meet. For example, if you ask, "If God created everything, what does that teach us about how we should live?" Many people who mentally agree that God is Creator do not live with any regard for Him as their authority.

So we shouldn't be surprised at Jesus's wording just before performing the miracle in today's verse. He doesn't say He's going to do it so that they will believe; He does it so that "you may know that the Son of Man has authority" (Luke 5:24). The word translated "know" is the verb *eido* in the Greek, which points to seeing with the eyes or the senses, to discern, to turn the mind, or to inspect something.

That's exactly what the scribes and Pharisees had done with Jesus in this setting. They had heard Him, watched Him, and paid attention to the stir He'd caused. They knew where He was living, and they were attending a local gathering. But though they watched (*eido*) the paralytic get up and walk, they still didn't believe that Jesus was who He claimed.

How do you see your knowledge of Jesus and your belief in Him lining up?

DAY 5

READ:

Luke 5:17-26

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Luke 5:20-25

NOTES

Just before Jesus healed the paralytic man, He looked at the skeptical scribes and Pharisees seated in the house and declared, “that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (Luke 5:24). He commanded the lame man to get up, take up his stretcher, and go home; the man did that “immediately” (v. 25).

Authority is a word that causes quite a divide. If you grew up with loving, wise parents, you may not have had a problem with your parental authority. But some buck against all authority; anyone telling them to do anything incites ire. A bad boss, a snotty teacher, and a negligent official give the concept of authority a bad name.

But Jesus had a different level of authority; He didn't demand it or bribe human beings to give it or acknowledge it. Instead, all authority was given to Him (Matthew 28:18). The chronically authority-adverse might ask, “Oh yeah? Well, who gave it to Him?” The only One who has always had it all: God the Father Himself. As Creator, Sustainer, Judge, and Director of everything that ever existed, God has always had all authority. And when He deemed that the Son, perfect in holiness, perfect in humanity, and perfect in His sacrifice, should receive the authority of the Father, He also had the power to give it to Him. And with that authority, Jesus was able to forgive sin, and in dying on the cross, the sins of those who believe in Him have been washed clean forevermore.

How are you obeying Jesus's authority today in going and making disciples?

VOICES from THE CHURCH

“I like to define forgiveness as ‘giving up the right to punish the one who has hurt you.’ That’s what Jesus did on the cross.”¹

—Jan Silvious

GROUP

NOTES

VOICES from THE CHURCH

“While Christians are not spared suffering, they are promised deliverance from sin and the inner resources through the indwelling Holy Spirit to live a righteous life in Christ.”²

–Rhonda H. Kelley

POINT 1: The Son of Man brings forgiveness to the faithful (Luke 5:17-20).

Jesus’s _____ as a powerful teacher and healer spread, and those who had _____ were willing to do whatever it took to see Him.



From Day 1: **How do we know Jesus is who He claimed to be?**

KEY DOCTRINE #42: SIN’S EFFECT IN THE WORLD

Sin does not only impact our _____ with God; it is also the root of our broken relationships with the people around us. Human sinfulness is the reason the creation groans in anticipation for redemption and deliverance from its bondage to evil powers (Romans 8:20-22). Sin has _____ and redirected the social structures of society, leading to injustice and oppression. The distorting effects of sin are visible all around us, but the good news of the _____ is that the battle against these powers will be won through the work of Christ.

POINT 2: The Son of Man brings healing to the needy (Luke 5:21-25).

The scribes and Pharisees doubted Jesus’s authority to _____ sins because they didn’t want to believe that He is _____, despite the continual revealing of His power.



Even though God has shown up for us in the past, why is it easy to doubt His presence and power when going through tough times?

Jesus revealed to the crowd that He certainly is God by _____ the man's spiritual and physical needs, resulting in God being _____ .

? How can knowing Jesus cares about all our needs (spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental) help us in our spiritual growth?

POINT 3: The Son of Man brings glory to the Father (Luke 5:26).

Upon seeing the power of Jesus displayed in the _____ of the paralytic, the entire crowd was _____ and glorified God.

? When was the last time you glorified God because of a sense of fear and wonder from something He had done?

It's not enough to see God's _____ and find it incredible; we must respond in _____ to Jesus.

? How can we respond to Spirit-filled moments so that we are not just merely awed but transformed?

MY RESPONSE

Because we have experienced the great miracle of our salvation through Jesus, we seek to glorify God and make much of Him in all that we do.

- **HEAD:** What makes you trust that Jesus knows the most pressing need for your life today?
- **HEART:** How will you glorify God this week?
- **HANDS:** To whom is God directing you to be helpful and to serve this week?



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"Pierce the gloom of sin and grief, Jesus, the light of the world! Scatter all my unbelief, Jesus, the light of the world!"³

—Charles Wesley (1707–1788)