

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #11

Passage: Luke 5:12-16

Sermon Date: Nov 27, 2005

Introduction:

If you were a leper in Jesus' day – one who had some sort of infectious, perhaps incurable skin disease – you sure would've been glad to encounter a rabbi with a reputation for miraculous healings. Finally, hope of not being permanently quarantined outside the city any longer! At last – freedom from all the imprisoning physical and emotional pain and suffering! Read this week's passage and see how Jesus responds to such a leper.

Don't forget, before you start this study, spend time in prayer. Tell God how you feel about him, what you're thankful for, what your needs are, and whatever else is on your mind to talk to him about or ask him about. He loves to hear from you. "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." (Jeremiah 33:3)

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart below to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Luke 5:12-16</p> <p>¹²While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy^[a]. 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."</p> <p>¹³Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.</p> <p>¹⁴Then 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."</p> <p>¹⁵Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.</p> <p>a. Greek word was used for various diseases affecting the skin—not necessarily leprosy.</p>	

2. Now explore the parallel passages from the other Gospels, using them to further illuminate this incident.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Mark 1:40-45</p> <p>⁴⁰A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." ⁴¹Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.</p> <p>⁴³Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴"See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.</p> <p>Matthew 8:1-4</p> <p>¹When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. ²A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." ³Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy. ⁴Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."</p>	

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Look Beneath the Surface:

5. In Bible times, skin diseases were considered incurable, highly contagious, and a sign of sinfulness and spiritual uncleanness.
 - a. What did Jesus' willingness to physically touch the leper reveal about Jesus' character?

 - b. Is there anyone that God has placed you in a position to help, but for some reason you are hesitant to do so because it would be somehow risky, difficult, inconvenient, etc.? If so, how might you follow Jesus' example?

6. Transition words (such as *therefore*, *but*, *yet*) often provide important insights into the meaning of a sentence or passage.
 - a. What is the significance of the word "yet" at the beginning of Luke 5:15? (Mark 10:45 is helpful here.)

 - b. How about the word "but" at the beginning of Luke 5:16 – what does it imply about Jesus' withdrawals? (Again, compare to Mark 1:45)

7. What are some possible reasons why Jesus ordered the man not to tell anyone?

Sharpen Your Skills:

8. Use the following challenges to practice your skills using tools such as a study Bible, concordance, Internet (www.biblegateway.com). If you're new to studying the Bible, ask someone who is further along to help you do this. If you're very experienced with these kinds of tools, then make it your goal to help someone else learn to use a Bible study tool this week.
 - a. Where (specific chapters/verses) in the Old Testament do we find the specific laws (commands of Moses) that Jesus is referring to in Luke 5:14?

 - b. There are three instances of God healing leprous people in the Old Testament – what are the names of the three people who are healed?

 - c. Where in the gospels of Matthew or Luke do we learn that healing leprosy was perhaps considered by the Jews to be a unique characteristic of the coming Messiah?

9. What was the most important insight you gained in doing this Bible study? What is one key application of something from this study that you intend to try to make in your life this week?