

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Mar..... Luke 1:1-80.....A Special Baby – Rejoice
- 2) 11 Mar..... Luke 2:1-52.....A Unique Person – Praise God
- 3) 18 Mar..... Luke 3:1 – 4:30.....An Unexpected Messiah – Honor Him
- 4) 25 Mar..... Luke 4:31 – 6:11..... Christianity 101 – Accept Others
- 5) 01 Apr..... Luke 6:12 – 8:56..... Christianity 102 – Live to Benefit Others

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus began His ministry with “Shock & Awe.” He healed everything from headaches to demon-possession; He healed people with faith (e.g., a leprous man) and without faith (a demoniac)
- Many of His healings involved creative powers (e.g., withered hand); and He forgave sins – activities which only God can do
- We will see in this lesson there is something more important than the healings of Christ? It is His teachings. While His healings only brought temporary relief, His teachings brought eternal life

Passage	Comments
Luke 4:31-37	<p>Demon-possession within God’s House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v32. How does one teach with authority? Can we do it? • vv33-36. Demonic obsession and/or possession takes many forms from illnesses to behavioral issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ This is a lesson unto itself ◆ As Jesus indicated in Mark 9:14-29, a believer must be uniquely prepared to deal with demonic issues • v37. Jesus’ reputation began to spread like wildfire • Are people more interested in hearing “heavenly” words or receiving a gift such as free food or a healing? • Some hurts have to be healed before people can listen • The Pastor’s job is to heal the hurting Ezekiel 34:2-4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Healings don’t always need a miracle – sometimes a touch, a kind word, a prayer, or other act of kindness
4:38-44	<p>God’s Teachings Have Priority Over Healings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv38-41. Jesus healed ALL who came to Him from fever, to diseases, to disabilities, to demons. Today’s so called faith healers pale in comparison • vv42-44. The people tried to keep Jesus to themselves, but Jesus states he had a higher priority – He must take God’s message of salvation to others • Remember – Miracles may grab people’s attention, but miracles don’t save – only heeding God’s word saves
5:1-11	<p>Fishermen Become Fishers of Men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. More teaching – this time from a moored boat • vv4-11. Jesus gave Peter, James, and John an “Ah Ah” moment to sway them to drop everything & follow Him • What were some of our “Ah Ah” moments in life?
5:12-16	<p>Jesus Touches the Untouchable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v13. Jesus broke protocol and touched an untouchable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Who are the untouchables in our lives? • v14. Why did Jesus say “tell no one”? Did it work? • v15. Large crowds came to be healed, and they were! • v16. Yet again, Jesus had a higher priority – to PRAY! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How high of a priority do we give prayer in our lives?
5:17-26	<p>Jesus Gives Undeniable Proof of His Divinity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v20. “Seeing their faith, He said; ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven’” – and the Pharisees rightfully acknowledged that no one can forgive sins but God – and to give credence to His words the paralyzed man walked home
5:27-39	<p>The Teachings of Jesus Provoke Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v31. The healthy don’t need a doctor and the [self-] righteous don’t need forgiveness • Jesus came to call sinners to repentance

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calvinists use this passage to show that Christ only died for the elect. That is partially true. Since even the self-righteous Pharisees were also sinners, Christ was calling them too – But they needed to first willingly humble themselves, & many did John 5:40; Acts 6:7
6:1-11	<p>Overriding Principles – Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. The Pharisees substituted legalism for righteousness • Man’s wellbeing (need for food) trumped legalism • Same thing with the man with the withered hand – his wellbeing on the Sabbath trumped the no-working law
Food for Thought	How do we respond to a family who might ask “Why won’t Jesus heal our little girl of Down Syndrome and “withered” hands and feet TODAY?” see picture below...

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- There will come a day when the handicapped will be blessed beyond measure for their hardships on earth..... Isaiah 56:3-5
- The miracles performed by Jesus and the 1st century disciples confirmed the deity of Jesus and message of salvation ... Heb 2:1-4
- But, John 14:12 says "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do;" What are the “greater works”?
 - ◆ The Bible only records 37 miracles by Jesus
 - ◆ The Apostles and disciples only performed about 30 miraculous events, with Paul doing about 1/2 of them, so the recorded miracles do not seem to be a part of these “greater works”
 - ◆ But, while Jesus never wrote a book, or traveled more than 200 miles from home, or won more than about 500 hundred converts, His followers went farther, wrote prolifically, preached to more people, won more converts and, thereby fulfilled the “greater works” without having to take miracles into account
- Are we more interested in seeing and receiving the miraculous, which delivers temporary relief, or should we be more interested in hearing & sharing God’s words which deliver eternal life?

NEXT WEEK:

Luke 6-8. Jesus continues to provoke confrontation with the religious leaders, to upset the status quo, and to cause His listeners to consider His true mission of being the Savior by restoring life to the dead and making radical statements such as “Love Your Enemies”

