

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 Dec 2020 Luke 1:1-25 Planned
- 2) 13 Dec Luke 1:26-80 Conceived
- 3) 20 Dec Luke 2:1-19 Proclaimed
- 4) 27 Dec Luke 2:20-40 Anticipated
- 5) 03 Jan 2021 Luke 2:41-52 Matured
- 6) 10 Jan Luke 3:1-38 Prepared
- 7) 17 Jan Luke 6:27-49 Compassionate
- 8) 24 Jan Luke 4:1-44 Rejected
- 9) 31 Jan Luke 5:1-16; 27-39 Followed
- 10) 07 Feb Luke 5:17-26 Forgives
- 11) 14 Feb Luke 6:1-26 Reigns
- 12) 21 Feb Luke 7:1-50 Loved
- 13) 28 Feb Luke 9:1-62 Unashamed

INTRODUCTION

- In these split passages we see Jesus persuading His new recruits (Peter, James, and John) to drop everything and follow Him. Yet His most pressing priority was not to heal or even to teach, but to PRAY.
- How can we make praying a higher priority in our lives?

Passage	Comments
Luke 5:1-11	<p>Fishermen Become Fishers of Men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. More teaching – this time from a moored boat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Noticed how often Jesus sat down to teach? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mt 5:1 Jesus saw the crowds & He sat down 2. Mt 26:55 He sat down daily to teach in the temple 3. Lk 5:3 He sat down in the boat & taught them 4. John 6:3 Jesus went up to the Mtn & sat down 5. John 8:2 He came into the Temple & sat down ♦ What is the significance of sitting down to teach vs standing up? <input type="checkbox"/> Not so intimidating? <input type="checkbox"/> Easier to relate to? <input type="checkbox"/> More inviting to questions & dialogue? • vv4-9. Jesus gave Peter, James, and John an “Ah Ah” moment to sway them to drop everything & follow Him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Notice Peter’s response, “...Nevertheless, at Your bidding I will let down the nets.” ♦ We need to trust God when our efforts have failed ♦ What have been some of our “Ah Ah” moments? • vv10-11. Peter, James, & John left their lucrative fishing business to join a ministry predominately supported by women (Lk 8:3) to focus on reaching men for Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ They did not start women’s, children’s, or teen ministries ♦ Why focus on reaching men? Consider This: If you catch the man, you catch the whole family!.....Acts 10; 16:33 ♦ What would entice you to give up a lucrative business to take on a full time ministry? <input type="checkbox"/> Warm fuzzies; <input type="checkbox"/> A personal phone call or email from God; <input type="checkbox"/> Subjective evidence of answered prayers/open’d doors <input type="checkbox"/> Confidence Jesus will meet any & all financial needs, with surplus, as easy as He did for those early fishermen
5:12-15	<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 today? <input type="checkbox"/> COVID patients? <input type="checkbox"/> In-laws? <input type="checkbox"/> Others? • If this leper was in advanced stages of Hansen’s disease, he might have had deformed or missing fingers and toes, even missing his ears and nose. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Notice that “immediately” the leper was healed. This was a supernatural event since time was circumvented, and possibly restoration of missing body parts (e.g., fingers & toes, ears & nose) • v14. Why did Jesus say, “Tell no one”? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possibly to slow down His fame (crowds can be unruly and unteachable at times, if inflamed) 2. Possibly so the Jewish priests would have untarnished evidence of a healed leper to investigate (IOW, the leper would have been standing before the priests alone without clamoring witnesses) 3. Or, did Jesus use reverse psychology to greatly market His abilities and draw even larger crowds?

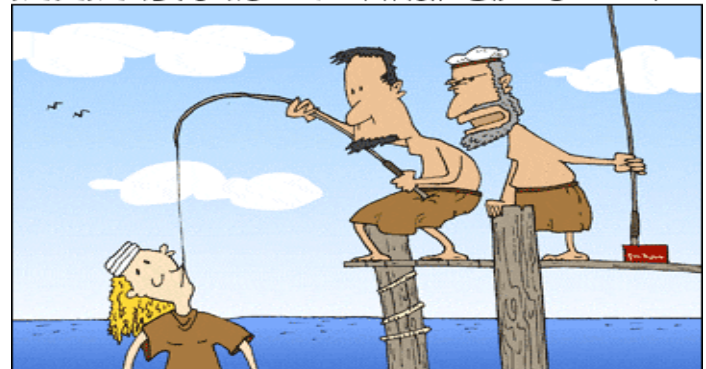
Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In fact, because of the large crowds Jesus and His disciples didn’t even have time to eat (Mark 6:31) • v15. Large crowds came to be healed, and they were!
Ceremonial Cleansing of a Leper found in Lev 14:2-23	<p>The Law. The offering was two living, clean birds, some cedar wood, with scarlet & hyssop, which were to be brought for his cleansing; and, when clean, two male lambs, one ewe lamb, three tenth deals of flour, and one log of oil; but if the person was poor, then he was to bring one lamb, one tenth deal of flour, one log of oil and two turtle doves, or young pigeons</p> <p>The Purpose. This leper is the only one recorded in the Bible supernaturally healed and ceremonially cleansed in this fashion. The Jewish priests would have immediately realized, because of verifiable evidence, that a God-ordained, Moses-like prophet was in their midst</p>
5:16	<p>Jesus Had A High Priority – PRAYING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How high of a priority do we give prayer in our lives? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> We pray at mealtimes <input type="checkbox"/> We devote at least XXX minutes each day to study of God’s word & prayer <input type="checkbox"/> Other • What does devoted praying look like? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific time during the day/week/month (Daniel prayed 3x each day (Dan 6:10); One Psalmist prayed in the morning (Ps 5:3); Another Psalmist prayed 3x/day (Ps 55:17) 2. Specific focus: e.g., Church, Family, Work, School, etc. 3. Possible fasting of food or pleasure to make time to pray 4. Persistent praying – not to pester God for what we want but to align our prayers to His divine will.....Lk 18:1-5; 1Jn 5:14 5. Other aspects/attributes? • Consider This: 1) If you toil in ministry with little to no prayer, expect little to no fruit; 2) If you only pray but don’t toil in ministry, again, don’t expect much fruit; 3) We must toil in ministry and toil in prayer to produce the fruit God desires <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apostles devoted themselves to prayer & ministry.. Act 6:4 2. We are told to devote ourselves to prayer Rom 12:12 3. Spouses should devote time to prayer..... 1Cor 7:5 4. Again, we are to devote ourselves to prayer, being alert and having an attitude of thanksgiving..... Col 4:2
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 calls sinners to repentance. • vv37-39. New wine (teachings) must be put in new vessels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ For many, growing old can be a spiritual problem as we become inflexible – always wishing for the “old days” ♦ Sometimes God must wait for the older generation to die off to make needed changes (e.g. the 40 year Exodus)

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Focus on making effective praying a higher priority on a daily basis
- ...and do not grow old and inflexible. Pray that in our old age we will continue to be fruitful (Ps 71:9, 18; 92:13) as we fish for men & women & kids

NEXT WEEK: Luke 5:17-26. Jesus gives undeniable proof of his divinity by healing a paralyzed man and forgiving the man’s sins.

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(See Matthew 4:19)

11-09-2006

YOU GOTTA THROW HER BACK. WE'RE FISHERS OF MEN.