

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

Day 1- Read Luke 5

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: Luke 5:31-32 *“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”*

Day 2- Read Luke 5:1-11

1. “Word of God” in verse one does not refer to the Bible the way we commonly use that phrase. Jesus was not teaching from the Old Testament Scriptures. Knowing this, what do you think it means in this verse “to hear the word of God”?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

John 5:24 "Truly, truly I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

John 12:49-50 "For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment- what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

-What was Jesus was teaching the people?

2. How is Jesus' omniscience (the state of knowing everything) shown in verses 4-6?
3. What was unusual about the catch they brought in? (vs.5-7,9)

-What does this tell you about Jesus?

4. What did Peter's response in verse 8 show he knew about Jesus?

Picture and Ponder: "In the terror of the recognition of his sinfulness, Peter wanted to send the Lord away, but Jesus wanted to draw Peter closer. The very point at which the sinner feels the most alienation is the point at which the Savior seeks reconciliation."¹

5. What did Jesus' grace and mercy toward Peter move Peter to do in verse 11?



Our motivation to live for Jesus is not fueled by duty and will power; it is driven by understanding his posture toward us. God says, "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."(Isa. 57:15b).

When we come to him broken and desperate in our sin he takes us in and revives us, he gives us grace, mercy and love. This is the kind of heart Jesus draws near to. We don't need to run away in fear and shame or pretend we are not broken. When we live daily and deeply in the grace, mercy and love of God it compels us to live for him.

- ❖ When you find yourself off track and not living for Jesus, what is your first instinct?

- ❖ Why is it good for us, not to dwell on our sin, but to know its depths in our heart?

- ❖ The more we see God for who he is, the more we see ourselves for who we are. If you feel dull or insensitive to the sin that lives in your heart, spend more time with God. Ask him to help you see him clearly in his word and to reveal your hidden sins to you.

Day 3- Read Luke 5:12-16

Scholar's Note: *"The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp." Leviticus 13:45-46*

"The horrible disfigurement caused by leprosy made it greatly feared, and caused lepers to be outcasts, cut off from all healthy society, for protection...People with this disease were viewed as cursed by God— a familiar notion in ancient concepts of sin. The man likely saw his own disease in this way."²

6. Describe what it might have been like for the leper to approach Jesus. Inferring from his words and actions, what kind of attitude did he have?

7. Leprosy is a physical picture of a spiritual problem. Sin infiltrates and corrupts every part of us before we come to Jesus for healing. Why is it significant that Jesus touched the leper to heal him? How does this impact you?

8. How is the condition and approach of the leper to Jesus a picture of how sinners should come to Jesus?

Picture and Ponder: “Christ’s healing touch doesn’t come in response to a casual, irreverent acknowledgment. It comes as we bow before him in the realization that he is our only hope.”³

Day 4- Read Luke 5:17-26

9. What remarkable traits did the friends of the paralyzed man exhibit?



The roof on the house was no small obstacle. This effort took some time. It also took creative thinking and some chutzpah! Driven by great love for their friend and great faith in Jesus, the stretcher-bearers overcame the obstacles to bring one they loved to Jesus.

It might be easy to imagine ourselves going to these lengths to help a friend in a similar need. We want those we love to be whole, happy and healthy and live life to the fullest. Do we have the same passion for their spiritual need?

By forgiving the man’s sins Jesus met his greatest need. “What does it profit a man if he gains the world but loses his soul?”

- ❖ When you pray for those you love do you focus on spiritual needs more than physical or material needs? Do you believe that their spiritual needs are greater than their physical needs?
- ❖ How can you overcome the obstacles of discomfort, fear, inconvenience, apathy or cynicism that get in the way of telling the good news of Jesus to someone who needs it?

10. In verses 20 and 21 Jesus strategically does the unexpected and doesn’t immediately heal the man of his paralysis. Instead he meets the man’s greater need and forgives him of his sins, provoking the Pharisees.

-What did Jesus see in the hearts of the paralyzed man and his friends?

-What was Jesus claiming by forgiving the man's sins?

11. What did Jesus prove by healing the man physically? (v.24)

Day 5- Read Luke 5:27-39

Scholar's Note: "Tax collectors were viewed as traitors to their people, were classified as unclean, and were barred from the synagogues. They were also forbidden to give testimony in a Jewish court, because they were considered to be liars. Repentance was deemed especially difficult for tax collectors."⁴

12. Describe Levi's response to Jesus in verse 28. (Levi is better known as Matthew, the author of the gospel of Matthew).

For Discussion: Who do you imagine would be friends of tax collectors, considering proper Jewish folks despised them?

13. What does the Pharisee's question in verse 30 reveal about their hearts?

Scholar's Note: "The Pharisees' complaint is specifically directed to the act of eating and drinking because in their society table fellowship implied mutual acceptance. No act, apart from participation in the actual sinful deeds of the guests, could have broken the wall of separation more dramatically."⁵

14. Since none are truly righteous, how does Jesus use sarcasm in verse 32 to answer the Pharisees?

15. Jesus' statement in verse 32 succinctly summarizes his mission. How would you explain this to a friend if you were putting it in your own words?



Jesus came to save sinners. Unless someone realizes by the grace of God and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, that they are a hopeless sinner who needs saving they cannot be saved. Throughout this chapter we saw our merciful Savior coming to the hopeless, the desperate and the outcast. James 4:6 says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." The gospel is good news to those who are lost. It means nothing to the so-called "righteous", those who think they are good enough on their own.

- ❖ How does this truth that Jesus saves those who recognize their sinfulness and repent, help us know how to pray for our unbelieving friends and loved ones?

- ❖ How does this truth continue to apply to you in a practical way as a genuine Christ follower?

- ❖ Pray for a humble heart. Ask God to give you a greater sense of your spiritual need.

16. Fasting was one of the ways the Pharisees earned righteousness in their own eyes. In verses 33-39 Jesus is using parables to explain that his good news of salvation for sinners through faith in him cannot be patched in or fit into the traditional works oriented religion of the Pharisees. The two systems are completely opposed to each other. There is one way to God and that is through Jesus. Why do you think people are so offended by the exclusivity (meaning one way to God) of the gospel?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 5896-5897). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

² Ibid.

³ Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015), p. 175

⁴ MacArthur, John F.

⁵ Expositor's Commentary

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