

Jesus Responds to Those Who Exercise Faith

March 9, 2025 ▪ Noah Hadden

Jesus _____ to those who come to Him and _____.

Exercising faith can lead to experiencing God's extraordinary _____ and _____.

Luke 5:12-26

¹² While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." ¹³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. ¹⁴ And he charged him to tell no one, but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them." ¹⁵ But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. ¹⁶ But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

¹⁷ On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸ And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, ¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰ And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

²² When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” ²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. ²⁶ And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.” (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What’s one act of kindness you’ve witnessed or experienced recently?

Read & Discuss: Luke 5:12-16

1. In verse 12, a man with leprosy approaches Jesus and asks for healing. From what you know of the time, what might this leper’s life have been like before this event? What stands out to you about both this man’s approach and his words? What can we learn from him about approaching Jesus ourselves?
2. In verse 13, Jesus touches this man with leprosy, breaking both social and ceremonial norms. What do you think this act of touch might have meant to the leper, and why do you think Jesus chose to heal in this way? How might Jesus’ example challenge the way we view or treat others ourselves?
3. Despite crowds often gathering to hear Jesus and be healed by Him (v. 15), Jesus “would withdraw to desolate places and pray” (v. 16). What does this tell us about Jesus’ priorities? What can we learn from His example?

Read & Discuss: Luke 5:17-26

4. Verse 20 says that Jesus “saw” the faith of the paralyzed man’s friends. How do we see their faith in action in this passage? What can we learn from this example about the role community has in our own spiritual lives, and the role that we can play in the lives of others?
5. Though Jesus knew the man’s friends were likely bringing him to Jesus for physical healing, Jesus responds to their faith with “Man, your sins are forgiven you” (v. 20). Why? How do you think the man and his friends felt at this moment? How have you seen God respond to your prayers with an answer that demonstrated you actually had a deeper, unexpected need?
6. Verse 26 tells us the crowd went home saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.” What might have been going through the minds of the crowd as they observed the interaction between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees (vv. 21-24) and the physical healing of this man (vv. 24-25)? What do you think Luke wants us to realize about Jesus from this account?

Apply: From the leper’s trust to the paralytic’s healing, what part of this passage speaks most personally to you today? How will this shape the way you walk with Jesus?

Pray: Pray that we will fully appreciate and trust in Christ’s power and goodness, being glad to approach Him both for our own needs and for the needs of others we care about.