

Luke 5:12-26

Jesus under scrutiny



The text – Luke 5:12-26

1. Jesus says and does things that are scandalous (stumbling blocks) in this portion of Scripture. What is scandalous about his behaviour in 5:12-13?
2. Why does Jesus command this man to go and show himself to a priest and make sacrifices according to the law of Moses? How is this to the man's advantage?
3. Why does Jesus command the man to not tell others about his healing?
4. Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Prayer in the life of Jesus is a point of focus in Luke's writing. See also, for example, Luke 6:12-16 and 11:1-4. Why is prayer so important to Jesus?
5. What do you know about "Pharisees and teachers of the law"? This is the first mention of them in Luke's writing. They appear frequently from this point onwards.
6. The miracles of Jesus always signal greater realities. They point beyond themselves. What does the miraculous healing in 5:17-26 point to?
7. What is meant by the name "Son of Man"? It is used again in Luke in, for example, Luke 9:21-22 and Luke 9:26.

The Scriptures – Luke 5:12-26 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. The laws concerning leprosy had severe consequences for anyone afflicted with such disease. Read and discuss those laws in Leviticus 13:45-46.
9. The healing of the man with leprosy is also recorded in Matthew 8:1-4 and Mark 1:40-45. Read one, or both, of these accounts. What new things do you learn? Why are there differences between these accounts of the same event?
10. The healing of the paralysed man is also recorded in Matthew 9:1-8 and Mark 2:1-12. Again, read and compare these accounts. Discuss both similarities and differences.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Luke 5:12-26 as a portion of the Scriptures

11. In Luke 5:17 and following, Jesus comes under the scrutiny of those who will be his critics and opponents. How does Jesus handle such scrutiny? What is it like for you to be under scrutiny, perhaps from someone who is suspicious of you? Discuss some specific examples.
12. Read Psalm 139:7-12 and then 23-24. The psalmist is only too aware that God knows him through and through. What does that mean to you? How does an awareness that God knows us intimately impact the way we live?
13. Do you live a life of integrity? Transparency? Sincerity? Do people really know you in the same way that God knows you? Do you want people to know you deeply? Discuss these questions.