

INTRODUCTION: How should we respond when we -- or those we love -- are struck with illness? Is it unrealistic to expect God to heal the same way today as He did when Jesus and the apostles walked the earth? We are going to answer those questions today as we examine two fascinating episodes in the ministry of Jesus Christ that teach us about the relationship between faith and healing.

- I. Jesus' Encounter With A Leper (Luke 5:12-16)
 - A. The Leper's Request (Luke 5:12)

Luke 5:12a "And it came about that while He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man full of leprosy;"

Luke 5:12b "and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him saying, 'Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.'"

B. Jesus' Response (Luke 5:13)

Luke 5:13 "And He stretched out His hand, and touched him saying, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' And immediately the leprosy left him."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

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C. Jesus' Instructions (Luke 5:14-16)

Luke 5:14a "And He ordered him to tell no one,"

Luke 5:14b "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, just as Moses commanded, for a testimony to them."

Luke 5:16 "But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray."

II. Jesus' Healing Of The Paralytic (Luke 5:17-26)

A. The Paralytic's Desperation (Luke 5:17-19)

Luke 5:17a "And it came about one day that He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem;"

Luke 5:18 "And behold, some men were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in, and to set him down in front of Him."

Luke 5:19 "And not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, right in the center, in front of Jesus."

B. Jesus' Response to the Paralytic (Luke 5:20-23)

Luke 5:20 "And seeing their faith, He said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven you."

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—"

Luke 5:21 "And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason saying, 'Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?'"

Luke 5:22 "But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, 'Why are you reasoning in your hearts?'"



C. Jesus' Miracle (Luke 5:24-26)

Luke 5:24 "But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—He said to the paralytic—'I say to you, rise, and take up your stretcher and go home.'"

Luke 5:25-26 "²⁵ And at once he rose up before them, and took up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. ²⁶ And they were all seized with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, 'We have seen remarkable things today.'"

III. Principles To Live By

When Illness Comes...

A. <u>Ask</u> God for Healing

1 John 5:14 "And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

B. **Examine** Our Life for Unconfessed Sin

James 5:14-16 "¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

C. <u>Seek</u> the Prayers of Others