

Home Group Questions - April 7, 2019

from Michael Womble

1. Describe a time in your life when you felt rejected, ignored, left out, or forgotten.
2. Why do you think it is so difficult for us when we feel this way?
3. Read Luke 5:12-16 with your group.
 - What questions or comments do you have after reading this passage?
 - Israelite law says in Leviticus 13 about those with leprosy or other serious skin diseases:
⁴⁵ "Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' ⁴⁶ As long as they have the disease they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp."
 - Thus, we see that this leper in Luke 5 would have been an outcast in Israelite society. He was condemned to live alone outside of his community, and was not allowed to physically touch people within the community. What kind of toll would this have on someone physically/emotionally/spiritually?
 - Notice that Jesus physically touches the man in verse 13 as he heals him. We know from some of the other healings that Jesus performed he did not need to actually touch him in order to heal him. Why do you suppose Jesus chose to touch him?
4. Read Luke 5:17-26 with your group.
 - What questions or comments do you have after reading this passage?
 - The paralyzed man was hoping for a physical healing from Jesus. But notice that in verse 20, Jesus forgives his sins, but does not immediately address his physical condition. Why do you suppose Jesus does this?
 - Notice that in verse 17, it tells us that it was the "Pharisees and teachers of the law" who were making up the crowd. Thus, it was the religious leaders and their desire to hear Jesus teach that actually prevented the paralyzed man from initially being able to reach Jesus. They were too preoccupied with their own interests to notice and/or care for the man in need who desperately needed to find Jesus. How might Christians still be guilty of the same things today?
5. When we read these two passages together, what kinds of things do we learn about Jesus? What do we learn about those who seek Jesus for help?