

# Bible Study on Luke 5:17-39

15 Apr 2020

*Verses included at end of document*

Jesus' popularity is becoming more widespread, the religious leaders coming from Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. Note we see in the last part of verse 17 we see the working of Jesus and The Holy Spirit.

It's curious that it specifically mentions that the power of the Lord was present, I would have thought he was always present with Jesus but it also mentioned why The Holy Spirit was present – to heal them.

We witness in the next few verses where men desperate trying to get to Jesus to see the man sick of the palsy get healed.

Wouldn't it be great to see people as eager to get in Church and be saved from their sins?

Palsy is a form of paralysis but the emphasis should be on the healer.

How many of these healed people cared more about the healing than the healer? Does this remind you of how people worship the creature rather than the creator (Rom 1:25) I remember listening to a Christian radio talk show where a caller asked, "Why doesn't God just put us in a protective bubble when we get saved to keep us from harm?" The host quickly replied, "Because we'd wind up worshipping the bubble rather than God." So true.

Why did Jesus heal people and not just preach to them?

I'm thankful that Jesus didn't just stop after saving us from sin but actually cares for our physical and emotional needs as well.

Not everyone was joyous on this occasion though as we see the religious leaders became offended at what Jesus said to the man with palsy. This was a wonderful and amazing miracle that Jesus performed, along with the other healings, and they focus in on the fact that only God can forgive sin. It appears that Jesus was trying to tell them the same thing, clearly stating that He is indeed God.

What has Jesus said or done already that should have convinced the religious leaders that He was God?

Why do you think they refused to believe it?

In the end God was glorified, the people were amazed and fearful at the same time. The people's comment at the end shows that they weren't sure what to think, "We have seen strange things today". Obviously this wasn't normal.

Next we see Jesus going to Levi the publican (tax collector) who would become one of Jesus' disciples and referred to as Matthew. As a publican he would have been viewed as a traitor to his people, since he collected it for the Romans, and also viewed as greedy since publicans were known to overcharge to their own benefit.

Isn't it odd that Jesus would choose lowly fishermen and then someone from the opposite end of the social ladder?

Churches are no different today though which speaks of a marvelous God who is no respecter of persons. God extends his mercy and salvation to whoever will believe. Praise God it isn't about how much money I have, how wise I am, or how strong I am. Salvation is freely given to all who will admit their sins, ask for forgiveness, and believe on the only begotten Son of God.

The latter part of the chapter the religious leaders at the feast that Matthew holds are again offended. This time they ask why is Jesus "eating and drinking with publicans and sinners." Jesus as The Great Physician explains He is there to heal the sick. He's done the physical healing; now it's time to heal the spiritually sick. Note the purpose that Jesus was with this group.

Do you feel uncomfortable in a group of worldly minded people?

Should the times and/or purposes be a consideration for us?

When should we be separate?

Lastly, Jesus is asked "Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?" In Jesus' answer He speaks of himself as the bridegroom.

What was Jesus saying?

How do you think they religious leaders understood it?

Does it make you think of marriage and the vows associated with it?

Does it remind you of the marriage feast to come?

Jesus end with the parable of the wineskins. I would not say I can give a definitive answer but let's look at a few things to keep it in context.

- This happened at a feast hosted by Levi (Matthew) which would most likely have wine present
- Jesus was speaking to the religious leaders who were totally fixated on the keeping of the Old Testament Law, even though they didn't and couldn't
- It was in response to Jesus being asked, "Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?"

Jesus was using a contextual setting, with wine present at the feast, to appeal to their understanding of storing wine in a wineskin (vessel) to explain that He was there to do a new thing. This, after all, was the New Testament period in which the Church age would be ushered in and the sacrificial system of the Old Testament would be done away with. Jesus would be the sacrifice to end all sacrifices and when Jesus would return to heaven The Holy Spirit, as promised, would come and dwell within the believer.

Again, I hope the study was a blessing to you and hope that you share it with others. May God bless and keep you.

Jeff

### **Luke 5:17-39**

17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. 18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. 19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. 20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? 22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? 23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? 24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. 25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. 26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

27 And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. 28 And he left all, rose up, and followed him. 29 And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them. 30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? 31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. 32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. 33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink? 34 And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? 35 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days. 36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old. 37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. 38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. 39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.