

Reflection Questions: Luke 5:12-26

For the message, "The Miracle of Jesus" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on May 5, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: 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."

A summary of the message: You may find it hard to believe in miracles or find it relatively easy to believe in them. Whatever the case, Luke writes to introduce you to a miracle—One name Jesus. The theme of Jesus' ministry—the kingdom of God—meant among other things that he comes with healing in his hands to both bring wholeness to our broken and forgiveness for our souls.

Bottom Line:

- Our biggest problem isn't our suffering. It's our sin. And Jesus has come to put an end to both. That is the miracle of Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you find it easy to believe in miracles or do you find it difficult? Why? Has that always been the case with you?

2. In the short account about the healing of the leper (verses 12-16), what do you find most compelling?
 - Same thing for the account of the healing of the paralytic (verses 17-26). What do you find most compelling?
 - What is the main point that Luke wants us to take away from these “extraordinary things” (cf. verse 26)? What do we learn about Jesus and his mission?
3. These two miracles were no doubt major life-changing events in the lives of these people, but the Gospel of Luke climaxes in the greatest miracle of them all, namely Jesus’ resurrection from the dead (ch. 24). How should the empty tomb help us think about the miracle of Jesus, that is, what he came to do to put an end to our suffering and to our sin? Or to put it another way, how does his resurrection anchor our hope both in this life and in the future coming kingdom of God?
4. What would our community of faith at Mercy Hill look like if we were truly anchored in a living hope of our future resurrection? How should that impact us?
5. How do these two episodes—these two miracles from the Miracle of Jesus—help keep us “on point” with the message we have been entrusted by Jesus to communicate to the world? (It may be helpful to review the “Bottom Line” above).
6. What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?