

Home Group Discussion Questions

Sunday January 23rd

Luke 5:12-16

Ice-breaker: If you could perform one miracle, what would you do?

Question: Was there anything that particularly spoke to you in the sermon this Sunday? Or that you disagreed with or were confused about?

A. Intro and Summary:

This Sunday we considered Jesus healing the man full of leprosy. Martin made 4 points in the sermon:

- 1. More than Skin Deep:** How leprosy is more than just a physical problem & how it can be likened to sin in our own lives
- 2. That Jesus is ready and willing to heal**
- 3. Jesus is the final sacrifice** – and cleanses us from sin
- 4. What stops us from coming to Jesus?**

Read the passage: Luke 5:12-16

- 1. More than skin-deep** – (and that goes for both leprosy and well-being)

Question: In what ways is sin like -and unlike- leprosy?

Follow up: Do you think it's a fair comment to say that 'for many, well-being may only be skin deep?'

Question: Can you think of people who in our society are treated like lepers? Why? What should a Christ-like response to them be?

2. Jesus: ready and willing to heal

Question: In what ways can you see faith at work in the life of this leper?

Question: Why is it significant that the man said to Jesus, "Lord, if you are willing you can heal me"?

Question: Luke tells us in verse 12 that this man '*fell with his face to the ground and begged him (Jesus)...*'. Martin said that '*there is a difference between the casual enquirer and the diligent seeker of God.*' What is the difference and why does it exist?

3. Jesus: the final sacrifice

Question: In what way can we sometimes feel untouchable/like a leper in the presence of Jesus?

Question: Why are Jesus' cross and His resurrection the answer to our guilt? Why are they so central to the Christian faith?

4. What stops us from coming to Jesus?

Verse 16 says 'But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.'

Question: Why do you think God has chosen prayer as one of the chief means for us to be engaged in His work?

Question: In your own life, what are the things that hinder you praying?

Question: Why does our spiritual growth suffer when we allow other things to rob us of time alone with God?

Questions: God has blessed us with many good things. However, as Jesus explained in the parable of the sower, good things (the riches and pleasures of life) can rob us of a relationship with the Giver. How do you know when something has begun to take the place of God in your life?