

Can Jesus Forgive Me?

Luke 5:12-26

LG Questions for 10/11/09

Getting Started

- 1) **Your Forgiveness.** Think back to a time when you thought you were going to be in trouble, but you were surprised to find that you were forgiven instead. Who forgave you and how did it affect your relationship with him/her?

Getting into the Bible

- 2) **A Leper Healed.** Read **Luke 5:12-16**.
 - a. Why was leprosy frightening to the people of the ancient world? Can you think of any diseases that provoke a similar fear today?
 - b. What was Jesus' "bedside manner" like in dealing with the leper? Why do you think he was so kind to this man? See **Mark 1:41** for help.
 - c. Why do you think Jesus told the leper to tell no one but the priests about his healing? See **Lev. 5:30**. Do you see a connection between the leper's disobedience and Jesus' habit of praying in deserted places?

- 3) **A Paralytic Forgiven.** Read **Luke 5:17-26**.
 - a. Describe the crowd that gathered to hear Jesus teach. Why do you think the Pharisees and legal experts made it a priority to be there?
 - b. What do you think the crowd's reaction may have been when plaster and straw started to fall from the ceiling above them? How did Jesus react?
 - c. Why did the scribes think it was blasphemy for Jesus to forgive the paralytic, and why didn't Jesus just heal him without saying he forgave him? What was the proof that Jesus has the power to forgive sins?

Getting Personal and Practical

- 4) **Your Prayer.** According to **Luke 5:20-22**, Jesus read the minds of both the paralytic and the Pharisees, recognizing his faith and their hatred toward him. Given that he also knows what's in your heart today, what do you want him to forgive, and what do you hope he finds pleasing in your life? Be sure to talk to him about it before you finish, thanking him for his mercy and forgiveness.