



Week 5: Jesus Has Power and Authority (Part 2)

Introduction:

Luke's account of Jesus' public ministry opens with a sermon in the synagogue at Nazareth, introducing four themes that characterize Jesus' ministry as a whole:

1. Jesus' authority as Messiah
2. Jesus' power to perform miracles
3. Jesus' salvation for the unclean, the outcast, and even the gentiles
4. The hostility Jesus encounters from those who resist his priorities

In the events that follow, Jesus heals various people, enters into disputes over his authority, and calls disciples who will help him multiply his ministry.

Note: As you discuss questions in your groups or reflect on them by yourself, keep in mind that the goal is not to get all the answers right. Many of us will not know the answers, and that is okay! The goal is to interact with God's Word and give genuine thought to it. If you struggle to even guess a possible answer, that is okay too! The pastors will provide the answers after your discussion so you can know and record them on your study guide.

Questions:

Read 5:12-16

1. What is leprosy? How does understanding leprosy in biblical times enhance our understanding of this man's encounter with Jesus.

Answer:

2. Jesus heals the leper in response to his faith and trust. Then He orders the man to remain quiet about this healing, with the exception of showing Himself to a priest. What is the reason behind this seemingly strange request?

Answer:

Read 5:17-26

4. Jesus heals the paralyzed man, but He does it in a confusing way. We have a sick man who needs healing, but Jesus frames the interaction as a sinful man who needs forgiveness. How are sickness, healing, sin, and forgiveness related to each other?

Answer:

3. This is the first mention of Pharisees and Teachers of the Law in the Gospel of Luke. Who are these people? What do they do? Why do they oppose Jesus so much throughout His ministry?

Answer:

Read 5:27- 32

2. We have been learning a lot about Jesus' identity as the powerful Son of God who has come with divine authority. But this passage of scripture gives a surprising insight toward His mission. What has He come to do? For whom? Why is this such a big surprise to His opposition?

Answer:

3. Jesus calls Levi with a simple “follow me”. What was Levi’s response? Why do you think He responded in that way? How does this story shape the way we should think about our call to follow Jesus?

Answer:

Closing Thought:

In these three short sections, Jesus reveals to us that He is a kind, merciful, forgiving messiah who has come to deliver those who need Him the most. At the same time, Jesus causes the proud to stumble as His priorities shake up their long-held traditions and beliefs and bring their authority into question. These stories are just the beginning of Jesus revealing his “upside down” kingdom to the world. A kingdom where the lowly are exalted, the debtors are freed, the guilty become innocent, and the dead are made alive. All glory be to Christ for bringing this kingdom to us also.