Sermon Notes for February 19, 2017

Healing and Forgiveness

Luke 5:12-26

Introduction

One of the questions many people ask when bad things happen is why?

“Who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.” John 9:2-3

What is the connection between sickness and sin?

I. Sickness is a picture of our spiritual condition. Luke 5:12-13

Leprosy is a picture of sin and how it affects everything about us – our life, our work, and our relationships.

- The leper was unclean and he knew it.
- There was nothing he could do to heal himself.

This leper fell before Jesus and begged, “Lord if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.

Then to remove any doubt about his worthiness, Jesus said, “I am willing. Be clean.”

What we need more than anything is the Master’s touch on our life.

II. Jesus has the power to heal and restore. Luke 5:14-19

Jesus ordered the man to go to the priest so he could be restored to the community.

There was a special ceremony that would take place over 8 days before he could be fully restored. Leviticus 14

The rabbis thought that healing a leper was like raising the dead. It would be a sign of the Messiah.

One day Jesus was teaching and an investigative committee came to check him out.

The Pharisees were a self-appointed religious party who considered themselves guardians of the law and its correct interpretation.
On this day, four men came to Jesus carrying their friend who was paralyzed. Everyone is wondering, what Jesus is going to do.

“Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

It wasn’t what they wanted or were expecting Jesus to say.

III. The greatest need we have is for spiritual healing. Luke 5:20-26

The Pharisees are shocked. It is blasphemy.

“Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

“Which is easier to say, “Your sins are forgiven or get up and walk?”

This man’s healing shows that Jesus has the authority to forgive sins and Jesus is God. The greater miracle is forgiveness.

Everyone was amazed and they said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

The Messianic kingdom has broken into our world.

Conclusion

What is the connection between sickness and sin?

Sicknesses like leprosy are a picture of our spiritual condition.

Only Jesus has the power to heal and restore.

The greatest miracle of all is spiritual healing – the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life in Christ.

“Although my memory is fading, I remember two things very clearly; I’m a great sinner, and Christ is a great Savior.” John Newton