

DEFINING MOMENTS: Trusting the Lord of Cleansing

LUKE 5:12-16

Dr. Matt Shackelford ■ Central Church ■ February 6, 2022 ■ Social Media: #DefiningMoments

Closeness Requires Cleansing. Cleansing Requires Jesus.

1. Seek the Lord's Cleansing **Contact** (12-13).

Luke 5:12–16 (ESV)

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."

¹³And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him.

2. Obey the Lord's Cleansing **Commands** (13-15).

¹⁴And 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."

3. Cherish the Lord's Cleansing **Cost** (16).

¹⁵But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities.

¹⁶But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1) As we think about the effects of sin, viewing it through the lens of leprosy, what is most striking about the spiritual realities of our sin before God?

- 2) The leper in this passage provides a beneficial pattern for anyone longing to be spiritually cleansed. What do you see him doing that guilty all sinners ought to be doing? How does Jesus's response to him offer you hope?

- 3) What command from the bible are you struggling against your desires to obey God's Word? This passage shows us that part of being cleansed is the divine enablement to obey the commands of God. How do both the commands of God and his divine enablement encourage your struggle?

Quote for the Week. . .

by John Piper

Ten Reasons Why it is Wrong to Take the Life of Unborn Children:

1. God commanded, "Thou shalt not murder" (Exodus 20:13).
2. The destruction of conceived human life – whether embryonic, fetal, or viable – is an assault on the unique person-forming work of God.
3. Aborting unborn humans falls under the repeated biblical ban against "shedding innocent blood."
4. The Bible frequently expresses the high priority God puts on the protection and provision and vindication of the weakest and most helpless and most victimized members of the community.
5. By judging difficult and even tragic human life as a worse evil than taking life, abortionists contradict the widespread biblical teaching that God loves to show His gracious power through suffering and not just by helping people avoid suffering.
6. It is a sin of presumption to justify abortion by taking comfort in the fact that all these little children will go to heaven or even be given full adult life in the resurrection.
7. The Bible commands us to rescue our neighbor who is being unjustly led away to death.
8. Aborting unborn children falls under Jesus' rebuke of those who spurned children as inconvenient and unworthy of the Savior's attention.
9. It is the right of God the Maker to give and to take human life. It is not our individual right to make this choice.
10. Finally, saving faith in Jesus Christ brings forgiveness of sins and cleansing of conscience and help through life and hope for eternity. Surrounded by such omnipotent love, every follower of Jesus is free from the greed and fear that might lure a person to forsake these truths in order to gain money or avoid reproach.

