

## ***EASY BIBLE LESSONS***

### **The Strange Power of Jesus the Messiah**

#### **Luke 5:12-26**

12 Once, when he was in one of the cities, there was a man covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." 13 Then Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I do choose. Be made clean." Immediately the leprosy left him. 14 And he ordered him to tell no one. "Go," he said, "and show yourself to the priest, and, as Moses commanded, make an offering for your cleansing, for a testimony to them." 15 But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. 16 But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.

17 One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. 18 Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; 19 but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. 20 When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." 21 Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? 23 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'?" 24 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the one who was paralyzed — "I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home." 25 Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. 26 Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today." — NRSV

## ***BIBLE QUESTIONS FOR THINKING PEOPLE***

What does it tell us about a person's faith when they bow before Jesus, beg from Him, and say to Him, "Lord, if you choose"?

What do you think Jesus wanted to show the man (and perhaps those around Him) when He reached out and touched the man?

Why do you think Jesus told the man to go and do as Moses commanded? What benefit could be gained from doing that?

Why do you think Luke emphasizes that when the people came to hear Jesus teach and to be healed that He would sometimes withdraw to a deserted place to pray? What does this say about Jesus' priorities and our priorities?

Why do you think the first thing Jesus said and did was forgive the paralyzed man? What does this teach us about both the power of sin and the power of forgiveness?