AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: LUKE 5 "Jesus Heals Us"

Scripture of Lesson: Luke's Gospel 5: 12-26

1. The Lord's power to heal and restore

a. OT prophets had prophesied the work of the coming Messiah:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn. [Isaiah 61: 1-2]

Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. [Isaiah 58: 8]

But to you who fear My name, The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out, and grow fat like stall-fed calves. [Malachi 4:2]

- b. The Lord proclaimed His work in his home village of Nazareth by quoting Isaiah's prophesy about Himself. [Luke 4:18]
- c. He began the work of proclaiming the gospel, healing the sick and the maimed, bringing healing to broken hearts and setting at liberty those who were bound by sin, tradition and Satan. His healing work is indicative of God's desire to heal and restore the broken world, both spiritual and natural:

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. [Romans 8: 19-22]

d. His works of healing are still on-going where needy and hurt souls are healed and restored:

Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses. He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! [Psalm 107: 19-21]

2. Different effects of the Lord's miracle

- a. The leper came to Jesus, God of Healing and Restoration, bowed down before Him seeking to be cured and expressing his faith. He received healing just as General Naaman of Syria was healed. [2 Kings 5]
 - We could be like this leper -- in a sinful condition-- so that we cannot take part in the Christian fellowship with God and with the people of God. Yet, if we recognize our unclean condition and go forth to Jesus and ask Him to cleanse us, He will cleanse us and make us whole. He died a sinner's death so that the filth of our sins could be washed clean.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. [2 Corinthians 5:21]

b. The paralytic was healed thanks to the faith of his friends. He wanted to be healed. And he had friends to take him to the true doctor who has power to heal all humanity and the creation.

- We can be like this paralytic in God's eyes -- unable to be productive in life, being a burden to others and not performing the life's duties as God wills, and simply going down towards death with nothing to look forward to. What is my condition in God's sight?
- c. The friends of the paralytic witnessed the working of the awesome power of the Lord. When you bring a spiritually needy person to Jesus Christ, you get to witness the miraculous change in the person and your faith increases as a result.
 - How observant are we towards our family, friends and neighbors in their needs? What are we doing to help others, to bring them to the true source of help?
- d. The Sadducees and Pharisees: They were not helped because they were critical of the Lord's work and did not respect Jesus as the Lord. Our attitude determines the amount of benefit we get from the Lord.
 - Do we have this type of critical attitude as these Pharisees and Sadducees did instead of taking part in the Lord's work? God wants to heal even this kind of sickness in us.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who** suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. [Romans 1: 18-19]

3. Have we been healed by the Lord?

- a. Let us believe that Jesus is the LORD of Healing and Restoration.
 - Let us come to our Lord Jesus for healing of our soul and body in true feeling of need and desire of healing. Jesus is the true source of help for all needy souls.

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. [Hebrews 10:22]

Discussion Topics:

- 1. Share your experience of receiving healing from the Lord. What were your conditions before and after the experience? What did you do to receive the healing?
- 2. What can we do to help others receive healing from God?