

# Gospels: Seeing Our Glorious God

[Luke 5:12-32](#)

“Jesus Goes to the Outcast”– March 19, 2023



## Introduction

Often, our experiences, circumstances, troubles, and/or suffering in life will give us a heart for others who have the same or similar experiences. When you've been homeless, you have a heart for the homeless. When you've been sick, you have a better heart for the sick. When you have been an outcast, you have a better heart for the outcast. Those who are spiritually outcast have a heart to love and reach those who need Jesus.

We want to see the gospel permeate every aspect of society. However, we often forget that we are people who were once outcast from God. Have you forgotten your own need for God's grace? If we forget that need, then we will forget how God shows His grace for all kinds of people. If we forget, we will end up in our own Christian bubble and discount our need to go to the broken.

The theme of the three scenes here in Luke's gospel is simply - Jesus goes to the outcast. He takes His disciples with Him. Are we going with Jesus to the outcast?

## Sermon Outline

Scene 1 – Jesus goes to the outcast as the One Who cleanses. Vs. 12-16

Scene 2 – Jesus goes to the outcast as the One Who forgives. Vs. 17-26

Scene 3 – Jesus goes to the outcast as the One Who accepts. Vs. 27-32

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read vs. 12-16

A leper was repulsive. Leprosy resulted in physical, social and psychological separation. The leper was ceremonially unclean. Can you imagine the loneliness that the leper has experienced for years? Have you ever experience loneliness? Can you imagine his joy and excitement when he hears what Jesus says in vs. 13? All who come to Christ will be made clean!!

Jesus didn't come for a popular fan base; He was on a sacrificial mission. He came to live a life of perfect obedience before God. He took the just wrath of God, and three days later, He rose from the dead. All who come to Him will be healed and cleansed from all of their sins. One day, you will be raised to be with Jesus, disconnected from the presence of sin forever.

This healing is a sign that the messianic age has dawned. The Messiah has come, and He is the one who cleanses.

### 2. Read vs. 17-26

Jesus not only has the power to cleanse ceremonially and physically, but He also has the power to cleanse spiritually.

A paralytic was brought to Jesus by his friends. Why? They wanted Jesus to heal him. The Pharisees and teacher of the law were there. They wondered how Jesus could forgive sin because they knew that only God can forgive sins. This is a massive claim that Jesus is making by forgiving this paralytic's sins.

Jesus asked them which was easier - to forgive sins or to heal? One of those comes with immediate proof. If Jesus says, "get up," and he does, there is immediate proof. There is no physical proof for saying, "your sins are forgiven." Yet forgiveness is the greater act. Miracles were not an end to themselves. They were the lesser act. Then, we would know that the greater act (forgiveness of sins) is possible. Don't minimize the importance of forgiveness of sins. Do you know the joy of forgiveness?

Our hope is the gospel. There are a lot of ways we can love our neighbor, but our only hope is the forgiveness of sins. We are the spiritual outcasts in need of forgiveness. Jesus may not always give us what we want but He gives us what we need. Do you remember the time before you came to Christ? When did you realize your need of forgiveness?

### 3. Read vs. 27-32

Tax collectors were the outcasts of society. They sold out their own and worked for Rome. As Jesus called His twelve disciples upon whom He will build His church, He called Levi (Matthew). Levi repented ([vs. 32](#)) and dropped everything and followed Jesus.

Matthew didn't disconnect his relationship with his fellow tax collectors with His relationship with Jesus. He intentionally threw a big party and invited them to eat with Jesus. The Pharisees and scribes began to question this. They grumbled at Jesus' disciples who were accused for Jesus' actions. When you follow Christ, you will be criticized. The world doesn't understand our actions.

The Pharisees were self-righteous. Jesus came to call those who know they are all messed up to turn and come to Him. Don't play favoritism in your mission. Go to the outcast. Jesus went to those that society neglected. Who is it that society neglects? Poor and working class communities are the least likely to participate in church. The best of our gospel-centered efforts neglect the poor. Let's not continue to neglect what society has neglected. We are the people of God. There is nobody beyond God's reach.

James forbids favoritism in our churches. ([James 2:1-12](#)) In Acts 10-11, we meet Cornelius, the first full-blown Gentile to come to Christ. Through a dream, God called Peter to go. Peter told Cornelius that God has shown him not to call anyone common or unclean. No matter the people group, everyone has value in the eyes of God. How do you see the people in the world? Do you see them as God sees them?

There are three dilemmas in taking the gospel to the outcast. The first is a missiological dilemma: If we are not connected to the outcast, it will be harder to reach them. Are you intentional and strategic about making disciples? The second is an emotional dilemma: If we are disconnected from those who are disconnected, they will feel out of place when they are with us. What steps can you take to overcome this disconnection? The third is a cultural dilemma: We can become pharisaic. We can think that those who are outcast did it to themselves. Everyone is worth crossing a border, a city or even a sea to share Jesus. With whom do you need to share Jesus this week?

There is a contrast between the outcast and the self-righteous. The outcasts come to Jesus for help; the self-righteous are merely amazed. The sinners come to Jesus and are forgiven; the self-righteous don't even ask for forgiveness. The sinners bring others to Jesus; the self-righteous judge those they are bringing.

Why should we go? Those of us who have come to Christ **were** them. Do you have a heart for the outcast? Can you recall the weight of the guilt of sin and begin to develop a heart for those who are being crushed by it? To be a Christian is to realize that we are/were the outcast, the broken, the sinner. We all need Christ.

Jesus became an outcast to take our sickness, our leprosy, our sin so that we could come. ([Phil. 2:5-11](#)) Come to the waters. Jesus is our only hope in life and death. Let's go to the outcast.

**Additional Reading:** Acts 10 & 11; John 7; Isaiah 55

### **Prayer of Response**

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at

**Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Genesis 23:1-20](#) "Hope Beyond the Grave"