

Wendy A. Williams
Prof. Glen Shellrude
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Luke Week 3 – 5:13 to 6:16

In these passages of scripture, Luke focuses more on the power and will of Jesus. The theological importance here is the crowd's reaction being positive toward Jesus due to his performing healing and miracles and the opposed being the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who tried to trap Jesus. For Luke the healing was a testimony to Jesus' authority and power but the Pharisees wanted to say that the healings of Jesus were demonic. There is recognition into Jesus' divine ability. Luke focuses on the attention to the power and will of Jesus than on his emotions. The healing of the man with leprosy was done immediately and his quest for the man not to tell was also important. Jesus was in sync with the law because he told the man with leprosy to show himself to the priest and this was customary. By the man showing himself to the priest it was testament to Jesus' power. Jesus had the power to forgive sin and it is modeled in Him proclaiming freedom for the prisoners. There are three groups who were against Jesus and they were the Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes who were known as the teachers of the law. These groups had a problem with Jesus being known as the Lord which is the name of God/YHWH. The faith of the friends and the paralytic were one of greatness. This faith that they demonstrated was deemed to the risen Lord and because of their faith Jesus saved them. Luke indicate that Jesus' actions put him on a par with God who alone can forgive but Luke reveals Jesus' unique authority. Jesus the Son of Man can forgive sin. Forgiveness is seen in the first sermon and the inclusion of faith as a response causes forgiveness and salvation to come. Praise and glory are the proper response when experiencing God's grace. Since Jesus has come

today and refer to present events that God's kingdom has come. God is visiting his people in fulfillment of the Scriptures is present. One must believe in order to be saved through repentance, baptism and a holy life. Taking up ones cross is done daily and continuously. This call came to the sick in the form of the sinner, the poor, the prisoner, the blind, and the oppressed who willing admitted that they needed help unlike the three sects who thought themselves righteous and had their false assumptions. For those who see and acknowledge their own unrighteousness before God, the gospel offers forgiveness. Jesus offers God's kingdom which is new and brings joy with the fulfillment of the Old Testament promise. The new is the new covenant that is not contrary but realized and fulfilled. We have Jesus being the Son of Man and also the Lord of the Sabbath. The three sects had difficulty with this terminology. Jesus has been attacked for doing the same thing that David when he was hungry. If David was free of the restraints of the law on that occasion, how much more is the Son of Man.? The problem really was the Pharisaic tradition that held an exception when the Sabbath could be broken and it had to be life threatening but the healing of this man's hand did not fall under this category. The issue for Jesus was to do good, rather than to do evil. The significance with regard to the life-style of the early church, for it pointed out that the Christian attitude towards the Sabbath was determined by Jesus' teachings. The importance of prayer is seen by Jesus and it is heighten when it came time for Jesus to make decisions. Prior to his selection of leaders Jesus prayed. Prayer should implemented in church decisions and in selectin leadership as was done with the twelve apostles. The apostles' stand apart from the others because they were authorized conveyers of the tradition, gave eyewitness accounts and were the ministers of the word and tradition that was passed down to the church.