

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 5

Conflict with the Pharisees

Conflict with the Pharisees

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will stress the importance of allowing God's Word to tell us who He is by looking at the failure of the Pharisees to do so.

Key Verses

Luke 5:17-26; 6:6-11—Main Teaching Passage

Memory Verse - 2 Timothy 2:15

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Luke 4:32.

Write about 5 statements about God on the board, some of which are true (e.g. God loves the whole world) and some of which are false (e.g. God is going to bring all people to heaven). Have the class identify which statements are true and which are false. Ask them how they know the answers.

Explain that all we know about God comes from the Bible. Today we will look at people who tried to know God through their own wisdom rather than the Bible.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Last week, we looked at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Throughout His three-year earthly ministry, Jesus would often have conflict with a group called the Pharisees. Today's story presents two of the first episodes of this conflict. First, on a day when Jesus was teaching a large crowd, a group of friends wanted to bring a paralyzed man to Jesus so that He could heal him. They could not enter the house where Jesus was teaching because of the crowds, so they lowered their friend through the roof. When Jesus saw this, He declared that the man's sins were forgiven. The Pharisees objected that only God could forgive sin. Jesus responded by telling the man to get up and walk, for he was healed.

In the next story, a man with a withered hand comes to Jesus on the Sabbath, the Jewish day of rest. According to the Pharisees' traditions, it was a sin to do any work on the Sabbath, including heal this man. Jesus asked the Pharisees whether it is lawful to do good or evil on the Sabbath. When they were unable to respond, He proceeded to command the man to stretch out his hand, and the man's hand was restored. The first story tells us the reaction of the people at Jesus' miracles: amazement (5:26), but the second story says that the Pharisees responded with rage (6:11).

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Much of what we read about Jesus makes Him seem like someone who is impossible to dislike. He heals people and preaches about the kingdom of God. What is there not to like? However, throughout His life, the Pharisees would prove to be constant antagonists because Jesus was not the God they wanted or expected Him to be.

In the first story, Jesus claimed to have the power to forgive sins. As we saw last week, He is the Son of God and has the authority to do that, but the Pharisees protested that only God can forgive sins. Notice that Jesus did not deny their statement, for it is true that the power to forgive sins belongs to God alone. What they were failing to understand is that Jesus is God and thus has this authority to forgive. The Pharisees thought that because Jesus is man, He could not also be God.

In the second story, Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath day. According to the Pharisees and their traditions, such an act was considered labor and thus violated God's commandment to keep the Sabbath. However, Jesus pointed out the danger and hypocrisy in these rules by showing that they prevented people from being able to do the right thing. If Jesus has the power to do good and heal this man, that is

LOOK (Continued)

right, but the Pharisees were more willing to allow this man to continue his life wounded rather than have their Sabbath traditions broken.

Ultimately, the Pharisees had a problem with Jesus obeying God rather than doing what they wanted. They opposed Jesus' ministry at almost every turn because their idea of who God is and what He wants was not in line with how Jesus taught, lived, and acted. Rather than listen to the Son of God and His Word, they obeyed and kept their own traditions and thoughts.

All of these problems could have been avoided if the Pharisees had simply read the Bible and let the Bible teach them who God is and what He commands, but rather than relying on the Bible, they trusted their own traditions. We also face the danger of having wrong ideas about God if we do not study the Scripture and allow the Bible to tell us who God is.

Today, people have all kinds of ideas and beliefs about who God is and what He is like. People try to use their own wisdom to figure out who God must be. Without Scripture, there is no way to know for sure who is right and who is wrong. Thankfully, we have God's Word as our definitive guide to show us who God is. Encourage the students to diligently seek through the Scriptures so that they can know who God is. Tell them that any time they have questions about God, they should use the Bible to seek the answer.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize 2 Timothy 2:15.

Review the lesson by asking the students what things we learn about God through Jesus in this story. What wrong ideas did the Pharisees have about Jesus?

Pray: Praise Jesus for being able to heal the sick and forgive our sins. Ask Him to help all of us to diligently read the Bible to learn more about Him and to wash away any wrong ideas we might have about Him.

Parent Question: Why did the Pharisees hate Jesus in Luke 5:17-26 and Luke 6:6-11?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 5:17-26 & 6:6-11 by David Guzik

C. Jesus' power to forgive and heal.

1. (17-19) Jesus' teaching is interrupted.

Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them. Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with *his* bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

a. **And the power of the Lord was present to heal them:** On this day, Jesus taught an audience of religious leaders and common people, but Jesus was there as far more than a teacher—**the power of the Lord was present to heal them**. The power of God is here to more than instruct us, it is to here to directly touch and change our lives.

i. Wasn't the power of the Lord *always present to heal*? Yes, but there are times when God pours out special blessings in such areas. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the **power of the Lord was present to heal them** after Jesus *withdrew into the wilderness and prayed* ([Luke 5:16](#)).

b. **There were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by:** The **Pharisees** were devoted and zealous, but for them religion consisted in an exact outward obedience to the law, and they believed that God only loved those that did as they did.

i. *Pharisee* meant "*separated one*." They separated themselves from everything they thought was unholy, and they thought everyone was separated from the love of God, except themselves.

c. **They went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus:** The effort the friends of the paralyzed man go to in order to bring him to Jesus certainly shows determination and a confidence in Jesus. They certainly didn't want to pull him back up to the roof.

2. (20-22) Jesus declares the paralyzed man's sins forgiven.

When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts?"

a. **Man, your sins are forgiven you:** When he forgave the paralytic, Jesus was not saying that the man was especially sinful, or that his paralysis was directly caused by sin; rather He was addressing the man's greatest need, and the common root of all pain and suffering.

b. **Who can forgive sins but God alone?** There was no error in the thinking of the scribes and Pharisees. It is true that only God can forgive sins. Their error was in failing to see that God was right there among them in the person of Jesus.

i. This reminds us that only God can solve our sin problem. We can't even forgive ourselves, because we don't have the power and authority to forgive ourselves. We must be persuaded of God's forgiveness in our lives.

3. (23-26) Jesus demonstrates the power and authority of God alone.

"Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"; He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"

a. **Which is easier to say:** With man, both forgiveness and miraculous healing are impossible, but with God they are easy. Jesus demonstrated He has the power to do the invisible (forgive a man's sins) by doing something miraculous that they could see (healing his paralysis).

3. (6-11) The Lord of the Sabbath heals on the Sabbath.

Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered. So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him. But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, "Arise and stand here." And he arose and stood. Then Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?" And when He had looked around at them all, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. But they were filled with rage, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

a. **So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath:** By their very actions, the Pharisees admit Jesus has the power of God to work miracles, yet they seek to entrap Him. It is as if a man could fly and the authorities arrest him for not landing at airports!

i. The religious leaders **watched** Jesus **closely**, but with no heart of love for Him. We can watch Jesus, but still be far from our hearts from Him.

ii. What is more, they *knew* Jesus would do something when He saw this man in need. In this sense, the Pharisees had more faith than many of us, because we often doubt Jesus' desire to meet the needs of others.

b. **Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?** In His question to the religious leaders, Jesus emphasizes the truth about the Sabbath. There is never a *wrong* day to do something truly *good*.

c. **Stretch out your hand:** In this, Jesus commanded the man with the withered hand to do something impossible. But as the man put forth effort, God did the rest. God never commands us without enabling us.

d. **They were filled with rage:** The reaction of the religious leaders is shocking, but true. When Jesus did this miracle on the Sabbath, He met the needs of simple people and broke the petty religious traditions of the establishment.

i. There is always such a powerful lure to this type of religious legalism in the Christian life because there is

never a shortage of leaders who want to lead this way, and never a shortage of people who want to follow this way. But God wants us to have the Holy Spirit write the application of His word into our hearts, not the rules of man made into the law of God.

ii. Jesus constantly rebuked the religious leaders of his day for this kind of heart. He said of them, *laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men ... all too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition ... making the word of God of no effect through your tradition.* ([Mark 7:8-9](#), [7:13](#))

iii. Jesus wasn't trying to reform the Sabbath. He tried to show that in their understanding of the Sabbath, they missed the whole point. A legalist wants to get you debating *rules*; but the point isn't *which* rules, the point is *the basic way we approach God*. Is it based on what we do for Him, or is it based on what He has done for us in Jesus Christ?

e. **But they were filled with rage, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus:** Apparently, the religious leaders thought it was fine to be filled with rage and desire to kill a godly man who never sinned against anybody on the Sabbath. That was all right, but you better not heal someone on the Sabbath!