



## Following the Leader - Study Guide for the Teaching Series

Week 2 – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020: Luke 5.12-16

### Please read Luke 5.12-16

The leper did not seem to lack faith to believe Jesus could heal, but he did have doubts about whether Jesus would want to (**Luke 5.12**).

1. Why do you think people doubt God's willingness to show compassion and bring healing and salvation to them?

A leper would have been classed as 'unclean' and required to live separate from the community. If they were near people they would be required to cry out 'unclean, unclean' as a warning to others. This leper is likely to have experienced years of physical, mental and emotional trauma; cut off from everyone – even his family – and probably feeling cut off from God.

2. How do you think people in our society can experience this sense of being 'cut off' from God and from others?
3. **Please read Luke 7.1-23.** What does this passage and **Luke 5.12-16** tell us about the willingness of God to show compassion and bring healing, hope, restoration and salvation?

**Luke 5.15-16** shows us how Jesus dealt with the consequences of overwhelming busyness. His own family thought he was out of his mind for letting people crowd and bother him so much (**Mark 3.20-21**), but Jesus didn't let busyness drive out compassion (**Mark 6.30-34**)

4. How does Jesus' example of willing and self-sacrificial compassion go against the grain for us – even going against the advice we would sometimes give ourselves or our loved ones about a healthy work/life balance?

Jesus also did not let busyness stop him from praying, even when that meant he had to get up early or find solitary places to pray (**Luke 5.16**)!

5. How does Jesus' example of faith in His Father, his willing self-sacrifice, and his need to pray, inspire and encourage you?
6. How has this study directed your thoughts about how you can "Follow the Leader" Jesus?