

THE SHEPHERDS OF ISRAEL

(Lesson begins in V:12)

Luke 5:1-14 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gen-NES-a-ret, 2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing *their* nets. 3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. 4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7 And they beckoned unto *their* partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: 10 And so *was* also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him. 12 And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on *his* face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 13 And he put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. 14 And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Notice Jesus says: "for a testimony unto them." The "them" is the priesthood. No leper has been healed in Israel since Naaman the Syrian by Elisha in II Kings 5. Healing a leper requires great

investigation to verify a leper has actually been cleansed and afterward great pomp, ceremony and ritualism by the Priesthood ... Requiring a week of work by these doctors of the law.

Leviticus 14: 1-3 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought unto the priest: 3 And the priest shall go forth out of the camp; and the priest shall look, and, behold, [if] the plague of leprosy be healed in the leper;

Leviticus 14:7-8 And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field. 8 And he that is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, and shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean: and after that he shall come into the camp, and shall tarry abroad out of his tent seven days.

Leviticus 14:11 And the priest that maketh [him] clean shall present the man that is to be made clean, and those things, before the LORD, [at] the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:

Leviticus 14:14 And the priest shall take [some] of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put [it] upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot:

Leviticus 14:17 And of the rest of the oil that [is] in his hand shall the priest put upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot, upon the blood of the trespass offering:

Luke 5:15 But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. 5:16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

The Shepherds of Israel

Luke 5:17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them.

(A) The fame of Jesus had gone out and These “Pharisees and doctors of the law” have come to investigate this JESUS this Rabbi from Nazareth.

(B) The scripture says very plainly – “the power of the Lord was present to heal them” – to heal the Pharisees and doctors of the law.

(C) JESUS wanted to heal them of their spiritual sickness and blindness to release them from the prison Satan had bound them in.

Spiritual Healing

Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, [*in whom*] my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 42:6-7 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; **42:7** To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Would they believe in HIM – as their Messiah?

THE MAN WITH PALSYP HEALED

Luke 5:18-21 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought *means* to bring him in, and to lay *him* before him. **5:19** And when they could not find by what *way* they

might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with *his* couch into the midst before Jesus.

Such simple faith should impress the shepherds of Israel. Will it?

Luke 5:20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

***Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.* Note the present tense verb Jesus is claiming to be Divine and therefore claiming to be God and more than a prophet from the very beginning of His ministry.**

Luke 5:21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

They could not believe that GOD, who had forgiven HIS people so magnificently in the past, could forgive through a Rabbi from Nazareth.

Psalms 78:35-38 And they remembered that God *was* their rock, and the high God their redeemer. 78:36 Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues. 78:37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant. 78:38 But he, *being* full of compassion, forgave *their* iniquity, and destroyed *them* not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

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Clearly, they reject HIS Messiah ship and “speaketh blasphemies”. JESUS was GOD!

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?

THE MESSIAH'S POWER TO FORGIVE SINS

Luke 5:22-23 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? 5:23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

Isaiah the prophet had linked the power of the coming MESSIAH to save (forgive sins) with HIS power to heal.

Isaiah 35:4-6 Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you. 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 35:6 Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Isaiah 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*. 35:9 No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there*: 35:10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Maybe they will put 2 & 2 together: if JESUS heals the man with the palsy from his physical illness maybe the scribes and Pharisees will allow Jesus to heal them of their spiritual illness. V:17

Luke 5:24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

JESUS makes a clear claim of HIS Messiah ship as written in the prophets.

Surely these *doctors of the law* will believe when they see with their own eyes.

Luke 5:25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. 5:26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

Even HIS enemies are amazed.

But they still did not believe because they “were filled with fear.”

I John 4:18-19 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

That they had “seen strange things today” should not surprise a doctor of the law ... these guys are Ph.D.(s) they should have expected “strange things” and not become “mockers” as they were forewarned.

Isaiah 28:21-22 For the LORD shall rise up as *in* mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as *in* the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act. 28:22 Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I

have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.

MATTHEW CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP

Luke 5:27 And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

“a publican” considered a sinner – IRS agents do not have a good reputation today ... we have 90,000 IRS agents and 35,000 FBI agents. *Follow Me* – the call to discipleship – then and now.

Luke 5:28 And he left all, rose up, and followed him. 5:29 And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

Matthew first obeyed, then followed the fruit of obedience. Then Matthew told his friends.

Luke 5:30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

The Scribes and Pharisees must have come looking for JESUS to see some more “strange things.”

But there HE was, sitting with publicans and sinners”

It’s obvious they are left out of the feast when they say: “Why do ye eat and drink with ...” Their attitude is “We can’t go in there, we’ll become ceremonially unclean”.

JESUS, THE SINNER’S FRIEND

Luke 5:31-32 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

JESUS is doing the very work these Shepherds of Israel should have been doing if they were doing their jobs.

Zechariah 11:17 Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword *shall be* upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

John 1:9-12 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

SANCTIMONY

Luke 5:33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise *the disciples* of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

Luke 5:34-35 And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bride chamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? 5:35 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

Good answer JESUS (in V:34-35). BUT ... The self-righteous are always too busy asking more questions but never listen to the answer to the preceding one.

What are Self-Righteous Hypocrites Like

Isaiah 65:5 Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These *are* a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all

the day. 65:6 Behold, *it is* written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom,

Such public fasting and prayer was an outward show of righteousness. How could “doctors of the law” be so blind? The Jews had been told by the prophets what kind of fast the Lord required.

Isaiah 58:1-7 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. 58:2 Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. 58:3 Wherefore have we fasted, *say they*, and thou seest not? *wherefore* have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. 58:4 Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as *ye do this* day, to make your voice to be heard on high. 58:5 Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? *is it* to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes *under him*? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD? 58:6 *Is* not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? 58:7 *Is it* not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Jeremiah 2:35 Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned.

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let

not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

Hosea 6:4-7 O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness *is* as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away. 6:5 Therefore have I hewed *them* by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments *are as* the light *that* goeth forth. 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

A wedding had a one week feast with no religious observances like fasting.

It would be considered rude, even by the Pharisees, to go to a wedding feast during one of their fasts.

The early church practiced fasting as examples found in cf: Acts 13:1-3, Acts 14:23 & 1 Corinthians 7:5

but they practiced Christian fasting.

Matthew 6:16-18 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6:17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 6:18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

THE PARABLE OF NEW CLOTH ON OLD GARMENTS

A Parable is a comparison of a known fact with a spiritual truth which it illustrates. Christ new religious teaching cannot be put in to the old forms of Judaism.

The new life of spirituality cannot be expressed with religious forms and ritualism. The great weakness of the Jews ... and later the Roman

Church was the substitution of religious forms, rituals and ceremonies for worship instead of a genuine spiritual life.

In Jesus day Jewish society was full of parading formal religion such as alms giving in the temple, public fasting and prayers, and seething with wickedness and corruption within the priesthood and ruling class.

Luke 5:36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was *taken* out of the new agreeth not with the old.

The picture the Bible paints of our garments which represents our righteousness is: filthy rags.

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Luke 5:36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was *taken* out of the new agreeth not with the old.

Brethren are you trying to tack the gospel of Christ on your old filthy rags of sin or false religion? You must have come to God in in the appointed New Testament way and have an entire change of raiment or righteousness to become a Christian.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith

The Pharisees are the old shriveled up garment.

We need a whole new garment. Christianity won't be tacked to your old worn out garment of religious showmanship.

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Colossians 2:9-17 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 2:15 *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.

These are all the old forms religious worship.

NEW WINE IN OLD BOTTLES

Luke 5:37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. 5:38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

The Greek word here translated “bottles” means wine skins. Sheep and goat skins were commonly used to store fresh grape juice. During the natural fermentation process the skins would stretch and swell. They could not be used again because they had lost their elasticity and new grape juice would cause them to burst because could not swell again.

The dark ages brought on by the Roman Church should have taught us that the way of destruction is: the substitution of “Spirit and truth” (cf; John 4:23-24) for corrupted a priest craft practicing religious forms and ceremonies in worship.

Instead we are to be transformed with a real spiritual life into the image of Christ.

Wherever ceremonial and sacramental worship have been elevated morality and spirituality is over shadowed and lost. All worship should be for the glorification of God and the development of righteousness.

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Christianity won't be added to your old bottle of ritualism and showmanship.

Hebrews 7:18-19 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and un-profitableness

thereof. 7:19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Hebrews 8:6-13 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 8:7 For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 8:10 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 8:13 In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away

JESUS, the Messiah, is doing a new thing.

Isaiah 43:18-21 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, *and* rivers in the desert.

Ezekiel 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

II Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old *wine* straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

Jesus is the new wine!

No Pharisee, having drunk deeply of self-righteousness, straightway desires Jesus.

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, Clarke's Commentary, Coffman's Commentary, B.W. Johnson's Commentary.