

Luke 5:17-26 – “Spiritual Triage”, Aug. 08, 2021

I. Welcome & Review

- A. Good morning! Ohayo gozaimasu! Welcome to Calvary Chapel Iwakuni. It is great to be here with you to worship the Lord.
 - 1. *Welcome any new people and those who may be streaming content.*
- B. At this time, we'll go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged students to their Sunday School classroom.
- C. And as the kids make their way out, will the rest of you please make your way to the gospel of Luke chapter?
 - 1. We're going to pick up where we last left off in our verse by verse study through the gospel of Luke. Last week we covered verses 12-16, this week we'll look to cover verses 17-26.
- D. Since chapter 4 of our study of Luke's gospel we've been looking at the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ in the region of Galilee.
 - 1. We've seen many accounts of how the people were astonished and amazed at the authority Jesus had and demonstrated.
 - a. He showed His authority in His teaching, as He taught like none other. He showed His authority in His ability to cast out demons and to heal the sick. He showed His authority over nature as he overflowed two boats with more fish than they had ever seen before.
 - b. He demonstrated His authority in calling people to follow after Him.
 - c. Last week we saw His authority in curing a seemingly incurable man. Jesus reached out His

hand and touched the untouchable, healing the leper of his spots and restoring his body.

2. Jesus left the people in awe, blown away at what He could do, amazed by His authority and His power.

E. Well today, Jesus is going to do something that we haven't seen Him do just yet in Luke's gospel. We've seen Jesus heal physical sicknesses, we've seen Him heal "mega" fevers, and various diseases, we've even seen Him heal a leper, but in our portion today, He ups His game so to say.

1. Jesus is going to take on the greatest sickness known to man. A sickness and disease that plagues us all. I'm talking about the deadly disease of sin. Sin is something that has plagued mankind since the days of Adam and Eve.
 - a. Greater than any other virus or plague, or pandemic, sin has continued to spread throughout history, and if undealt with will always result in death.
2. In our account today we're going to see Jesus demonstrate His authority over this disease to the amazement and awe of all who witnessed it.
3. The title of our study this morning is going to be "**Spiritual Triage**".
 - a. As the Great Physician, Jesus is presented with an opportunity to heal a paralytic, and just like any other doctor's office or hospital would do, Jesus begins His assessment of this man and His well-being, by performing spiritual triage; identifying and tackling the greatest need of the sinner set before Him.
4. I'm going to read our text from my Bible, I want to encourage you all to follow along in your own Bible. But before I get going, can I invite you all to rise to your feet in honor of the Lord and His Word?

5. Luke continues his narrative in ch. 5 vs. 17 with the following... (*R & P*)

II. Background & Setting the Scene

A. Our text opens up jumping right into things and giving us the details about some ministry that happened on a certain day. But Luke doesn't give us much more as way of background or details.

1. Now this account is recorded for us in both the other synoptic gospels of Matthew and Mark, so we can read from their accounts to get some of the background and other details that help set the scene.

2. Mark's gospel tells us that this event took place after Jesus had returned to Capernaum. (**Mk 2:1**)

a. Capernaum was the city that Jesus had left from to go tour the different synagogues throughout the region of Galilee preaching the word of God.

b. So, we get the idea that Jesus has finished His circuit ministry of going around the region preaching and is now returning home.

c. We will see Jesus come to, and go from, this city throughout much of his three years of earthly ministry as we continue to make our way through the gospel of Luke.

d. It was a headquarters of sorts for Jesus and His disciples. In fact, Matthew, in his parallel account of this event, identified the city of Capernaum as Jesus' "own city" in **Matthew 9:1**.

3. Mark's gospel also tells us that Jesus had returned to "the house". This is more than likely referring to Peter's house, the house that Jesus seemed to frequent and stay at when in the city of Capernaum.

a. As Jesus returned to Capernaum and entered Peter's house, word started spreading that Jesus

had returned and was there at the house and the multitudes started coming to Him once again.

- b. You may recall that prior to leaving this area, Jesus had the whole city looking for Him one morning after a full day and night of ministry.
- c. But when Peter and some of the other disciples found Jesus out in a deserted place praying, Jesus informed them that He must “preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose He had been sent.” (**Lk. 4:43**)
- d. Despite the city’s efforts to convince Him to stay, Jesus moved on preaching throughout the region. But now He is back...and so are the people.

B. Let’s dive into the first verse of our text and hear about a new group of people that have been added to the mix.

III. Luke 5:17;

A. Our text tells us that amongst the group of people that had made their way to the house was a group of Pharisees and teachers of the law; Scribes.

- 1. The Pharisees were part of the religious elite that ruled in the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem and the scribes were the teachers of the law. As we make our way through the gospel we will encounter this group many times.
- 2. It would appear that these men were more than likely sent to keep an eye on Jesus and to gather information about his teaching and the miracles He was performing.
- 3. Remember word about Jesus and the authority He taught with and the authority He healed with was spreading throughout the area.
- 4. No doubt, word had come to Jerusalem about Jesus and the religious leaders sent men out to hear first-hand what all the people were talking about.

5. And it would seem that they brought their friends and colleagues with them for Luke tells us that they had come not only from Jerusalem, but also from every town of Galilee and Judea.
- B. Now I find it worth noting that as the multitudes once again came out to Jesus, and this time even the religious leaders and teachers of the Law were there as well, what Jesus does first and foremost.
 1. Our opening verse tells us that Jesus took the opportunity to teach them. Mark's gospel says "And He preached the word to them." (Mk. 2:2b)
 2. Jesus was teaching and preaching the Word of God to the people. Oh, how important it is to have the Word of God taught and preached; that it may go forth.
 3. While I'm sure many people were there more for healing and to see the miraculous, Jesus continued to emphasize the preaching of the Word.
 4. There are many reasons why Jesus continued to emphasize the preaching of the Word of God.
 - a. For one, it's through the teaching and preaching of the word that people come to faith.
 - i. Paul writes in Romans, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (**Ro. 10:17**)
 - b. Two, the gospel message that Jesus taught and preached has the power to bring salvation.
 - i. Again, Paul writes in Romans, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." (**Ro. 1:16**)
 - c. Third, the word of God will not return void.

- i. Isaiah the prophet writes “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (**Isa. 55:10-11**)
- d. Fourth, the word of God is sufficient for all our needs.
 - i. Paul writes to young Timothy encouraging him and exhorting him in the sufficiency of the Scriptures. Paul writes, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**)
- e. We could go on and on speaking about the benefits that the Word of God brings to all who hear it. But I've only got 40 minutes.

C. **Jesus emphasized the preaching of the word.** And that is why here at Calvary, we spend so much time in the word.

- 1. The word of God brings faith, it has the power to bring salvation, it will not return void, and it is sufficient for all our needs.
- 2. Frankly, if we didn't teach the word of God here, I don't know what we would do. What else is there?
- 3. There have been times I have had people come up and mention to me how wonderful it is to actually come to a church where the Word of God is taught and preached.

- a. And while I'm thankful that the services are a blessing to those people, I must admit that it catches me off-guard sometimes.
 - 4. When I got saved, I got plugged in to the ministry of a Calvary Chapel where the word was the emphasis. To me, that's all I've ever known.
 - 5. But I'm amazed to find out that there are other churches and ministries out there that don't bother to teach the Word of God.
 - 6. They will resort to all sorts of gimmicks, smoke and mirrors, 10 step self-help programs, and all sorts of other things as substitutes for the Word of God.
 - 7. The church needs to be a place where the sheep get fed, not a place where they are entertained or encouraged to be part of a whole lot of programs. As sheep, we need a steady diet of God's Word.
- D. Jesus preached the Word, when the masses were more than likely looking for self-help and miracles to be entertained by, He focused His efforts on preaching the word.
- 1. And by God's grace, that's what we're going to continue to do here, following in the example left to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- E. Now, we also read at the end of verse 17 that "the power of the Lord was present to heal them."
- 1. Now your text may read a little bit different and that is because of different source texts that are used with different translations. Some of your Bibles may read, "And the power of the Lord was with Him to heal."
 - 2. The basic idea is the same. God was wanting to do something amazing at this time and in this moment. To not only teach the people, but to bring healing upon the people as well.

3. I still believe that God acts the same today. There are times and moments in life where God shows up and just wants to do something amazing, something powerful, something glorious. Perhaps today will be that kind of day for some of you.

F. Well, let's continue on in our text.

IV. Luke 5:18-19;

A. We read in verses 18 & 19 about a group of men that came towards the house bringing a bed with a man upon it that was paralyzed in hopes of being able to lay Him before Jesus that He may be healed.

1. Luke doesn't tell us how many men there were but Mark's gospel tells us there were four men bringing this man to Jesus. (**Mk. 2:3**)
2. No doubt, this paralyzed man was a friend to these four men, and we can surmise that the paralytic was someone these four men cared about deeply.
3. When these men heard that Jesus was in town once again, they weren't going to miss out on an opportunity for their friend to be healed by the Lord.
 - a. I wonder, we don't have any indication to say otherwise, but I wonder if perhaps these four men and this paralytic weren't part of the group of people that were looking for Jesus that morning when Jesus was last in Capernaum.
 - b. Again, the text doesn't say, but I find it interesting to consider. What if this man was around the last time Jesus was in the city, but for whatever reason was not able to come out that night.
 - c. But he heard about all Jesus was able to do, he heard about all who were healed and he heard about the authority Jesus displayed in healing the sick and casting out demons.

- d. We know that on the day after Jesus healed all who came to him, that there was another crowd that showed up looking for Jesus.
 - e. Perhaps this man was part of that crowd. Again, the bible doesn't say that, but I wouldn't be surprised if that was the case.
- B. These four men could not even get near Jesus because of the great crowd that had gathered at the house, but they were not detoured.
1. We're told that they went up on to the housetop and they uncovered a portion of the roof where Jesus was teaching down below.
 - a. Houses during that time usually had outside stairways that would lead up to the roof top.
 - b. Roofs were most often flat and made of thatch, dirt, or tile laid over beams. Here we read that this particular house had tiling.
 - c. However, the Greek word that is translated as "tiling" can refer to any kind of hard, baked clay or ceramic. Whether the roof had actual tiles or was packed with a clay like mud we can't say with certainty.
 - d. What we can say, is that this would not be some easy pulling back of some branches on the roof, or simply the opening of a trap door on the roof, as some may suggest.
 - e. These men would have had to work diligently to make a whole big enough for their friend to fit through. Again, Mark's gospel described the work of these friends as needing to break through. Which gives us the idea that they had to dig out a whole in the roof. (**Mk 2:4b**)
 2. As we look at the efforts that these men went to in order to bring their friend to Jesus it is quite inspiring.

- a. These men would not give up, they would not quit. They were tenacious. They would not be denied. They were going to bring their friend to Jesus no matter what it took.
 - b. And I see in them the type of attitude we should have when it comes to **bringing our friends to the Lord**, our loved ones to the Lord, our family to the Lord.
 - c. We're not going to quit praying for them, we're not going to quit telling them about Jesus, we're not going to let anything keep us from bringing them to the Lord.
 - d. Too often we give up on people thinking they're just too far gone, thinking that they'll never come to the Lord, thinking they'll never respond to those invitations we've given them over and over again.
 - e. Don't give up. We need to be the type of friends that don't give up on our loved ones. Who don't allow obstacles to keep us from bringing our loved ones to the Lord.
 - f. Not only do we need to be friends like that, we also need to surround ourselves with friends like that. With people who are going to bring us to the Lord, people who aren't going to quit on us. People that can keep us accountable and call us out when we need it.
 - g. People that love us enough to not let us wonder far from the Lord.
3. These men are an incredibly encouraging example for all of us.
- C. Once they broke through the roof, they let down their friend and there he was in front of Jesus. Let's read verse 20 to see what happened next.

V. Luke 5:20;

- A. Can you imagine the scene? Jesus is teaching and preaching the word. He's telling people the gospel and then all of a sudden the roof starts caving in from above. Debris from the roof being broken up is falling all around him.
1. And as he looks up and notices these four men, what does he see?
 2. He sees their faith. He sees...through their actions...their faith.
 3. We talked a little bit about this a couple of weeks ago, but I am once again reminded of what James has to say in his epistle.
 - a. He wrote, "Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." (**James 2:18**).
 - b. You see our faith should be evident. Our faith should be seen in our actions, in our works. Our faith needs to be tangible.
 - c. If we simply say we have faith, but don't have any works, any actions that correspond to that faith, James says that our faith is dead.
 - d. It isn't going to do anything for us. Our faith must be put into action.
 4. Jesus actually saw the faith in these men based upon their determination to bring their friend before Jesus. Their actions were evidence of their faith in Christ to do the miraculous, to heal their friend.
- B. Jesus indeed was about to do the miraculous, He was going to heal their friend, but not in the manner in which they were probably expecting.

1. Jesus looked to the瘫痪者 and said to him, “**Man, your sins are forgiven you.**”
2. I wonder what the faces of the men up on the roof looked like after hearing Jesus say, “**Man, your sins are forgiven you.**”
 - a. In my mind, I imagine that perhaps they were a little bit confused, perhaps even disappointed.
 - b. They had carried this man out to Peter’s house, went up on the roof, broke through that roof and lowered their瘫痪朋友 before Jesus and He responded by forgiving the瘫痪者 of his sins.
 - c. I imagine they may have been thinking something like that, “*That’s great Jesus, thanks for forgiving our friend, but how about you do something about his paralysis.*”
 - d. Perhaps they even thought that physical healing was this man’s greatest need. Perhaps in their mind they thought, “*He needs to be healed Jesus. He can’t walk. He’s paralyzed. That’s why we brought him to you. For You to heal him.*”
3. But Jesus, being the Great Physician, immediately performs spiritual triage on His patient and knew what this man’s greatest need was.
 - a. He knew that more than physical healing, this man needed spiritual healing. Jesus was looking to the eternal, not the temporal. This man needed his sins to be dealt with.
 - b. What good would it be for Jesus to heal this man and make him whole, but not deal with his sins and have him walk straight into hell?
 - i. Later Jesus would attest, “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed,

rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.” (**Mt. 18:8**)

- ii. He also stated, “**For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?**” (**Lk. 9:25**)
 - iii. Jesus could have healed this man, but if he didn’t deal with this man’s greatest need, he’d still be headed straight to hell.
4. This man’s greatest need was to have his sins forgiven him. And this man’s need is **the greatest need of every human alive today.**
- a. Man’s greatest need is to have his sins forgiven him. Without the forgiveness of sins, man is hopelessly lost and destined to spend eternity, separated from God’s holy presence, in a place created for the devil and his fallen angels. A very real place, called hell.
 - b. We all need to have our sins dealt with and there is only one person that is able to solve our sin problem, only one person that can forgive us of sins and take away the penalty of our sin and that is Jesus Christ.
 - c. Jesus went to the cross for us, He took our sins upon His shoulders and laid down His life, paying the penalty for our sin, dying on the cross for us.
 - d. And He rose from the dead three days later defeating sin and death. And He offers to us, by grace, through faith, the forgiveness of sins.
 - e. He offers to us a righteous standing before the Lord, He offers to us His very own righteousness. And all we must do to receive it is to repent and place our faith in the completed work of Jesus Christ.
 - i. The Bible says “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart

that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (**Rom. 10:9-10**)

- ii. **1 John 1:9** attests, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - f. If you're here this morning and you have yet to respond to the free gift of salvation that God offers to you through His Son Jesus Christ, I would simply ask you why?
 - g. Why have you not responded to your greatest need? You need forgiveness and God offers it to you freely if you will come to Him.
 - h. Don't delay any longer. Make sure that before you leave this building you've allowed the Lord to take care of your greatest need.
5. Jesus addressed this man's greatest need and forgave him of his sins. Though his friends may not have realized it, Jesus did for this man the very best thing He could have done for him.
- C. But there were some people there that were not too happy with what Jesus was saying and implying by His words. Let's take a look at verse 21.
- VI. Luke 5:21;
- A. The scribes and Pharisees heard Jesus' proclamation of forgiveness of sins upon this paralytic and it was an affront to them. These men began to reason amongst themselves and came to the conclusion that Jesus was speaking blasphemy and breaking the law.
- 1. Blasphemy involved speaking evil of, or showing contempt towards, or lack of reverence towards God.

- a. Included within the idea of blasphemy is claiming the attributes of God.
 - 2. When Jesus said, “**Man, your sins are forgiven you.**”, the scribes and Pharisees equated that with blasphemy because they believed that God alone had the power to forgive sins.
- B. These religious leaders were wrong about their first conclusion, but correct regarding the second statement.
- 1. They were correct in their assertion that God alone can forgive sins.
 - 2. **God is the only one that can forgive us of our sins**, because all sin is against God. When we sin, we sin against God’s law, we break God’s law, we sin against Him.
 - a. David knew and understood this to be true. It’s evident in the Psalms he wrote. When he wrote about his sin with Bathsheba, he wrote, “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight” (**Ps. 51:4**)
 - b. Joseph knew this truth as well. When Potiphar’s wife continually pursued Joseph and tried to get him to lie with her, he denied her stating, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (**Gen. 39:9**)
3. Now, don’t get me wrong, our sin greatly impacts the people around us, especially those who feel the brunt of our sin. But understand that when we sin, we sin against God.
4. That is why He alone is able to forgive us our sins. We can and should forgive one another our trespasses, but ultimately our sins can only be forgiven by the Lord.

5. The religious leaders were right in this regard, but wrong about their first conclusion. They concluded that Jesus was speaking blasphemy because he took upon Himself the attributes of God.

a. What they failed to realize is that Jesus is God, and therefore had every right to forgive this paralytic of his sins.

C. And Jesus does something next to verify His deity to the religious leaders. Let's take a look at what happens in verses 22-23.

VII. Luke 5:22-23;

A. Jesus perceived the thoughts of the scribes and Pharisees as they reasoned amongst themselves within their own hearts.

1. Matthew's gospel describes how Jesus knew their thoughts. (**Mt. 9:4a**)
2. Solomon in his prayer of dedication that he lifted up to the Lord he asked God to "hear in heaven...and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men)" (**1 Kings 8:39**)

a. God alone knows the hearts of all the sons of men. This is something that Solomon knew. It was something that his father David instructed him about.

b. In **1 Chronicles 28:9** David exhorts his son Solomon, "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understand all the intent of the thoughts..."

c. David no doubt learned this lesson when Samuel told him about the way in which he was chosen to be the next king of Israel. The Lord said to Samuel,

“Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”
(1 Sam. 16:7)

3. **God alone knows the true thoughts and intents of the heart.**

- a. This is something worth noting. God knows what's happening in the inside of our hearts. He knows all. There is nothing in your heart that God doesn't know about.
 - b. Now, that can be a bit frightening to consider, because I know how wicked my heart can be.
 - c. God sees it all. There's nothing you can hide from him.
 - d. People are good at putting on a façade. They are good at putting on a show, and they may be able to fool a lot of people, but God sees through all that. God knows what's going on in the deepest recesses of your heart, and the amazing thing is...He still loves you!
 - e. Isn't that amazing! God loves us, knowing full well about all that dwells in the deepest crevices of our heart.
 - f. Why would we not confess to Him our sins? Why would we not come to Him and place our faith in Him? There's nothing He doesn't see, there's nothing that gets by Him, there's nothing He doesn't already know.
 - g. And He still loves us and desires to have an intimate relationship with us. That is amazing!
4. Well, the very fact that Jesus was able to tell these religious leaders the thoughts and reasoning that was

going on in their hearts ought to have clued them in to Jesus' divine nature, but they were blinded to the truth.

B. Jesus asked them whether it was easier for Him to say to the paralytic "Your sins are forgiven you,", or to say, "Rise up and walk"?

1. The obvious answer is that it is much easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven you" because there is no immediate way to verify whether or not someone's sins were forgiven.
2. If Jesus said, "Rise up and walk", and the man still laid there paralyzed then there would be immediate proof that Jesus was nothing more than a charlatan; a fraud.

C. It was much easier for Jesus to say "Your sins are forgiven you", but in order to prove that Jesus had the power to say such a thing, He then did something amazing, saying and doing that which was more difficult.

D. Look at the next two verses with me in verses 24-25.

VIII. Luke 5:24-25;

A. Jesus proved that He had the power to forgive sins, by healing this man of his paralysis. But in addition to that and just as important He proved His divine nature.

1. The Jews believed that only God could forgive sins. And Jesus demonstrated right before them His power to forgive sins.
2. But not only that, He proved He was God by being able to read their hearts and know what they were thinking.
3. Jesus even referred to Himself as the "Son of Man". This is not just some humble title Jesus came up with for Himself. This was a Messianic title used by Ezekiel and Daniel in their prophecies.

- a. Jesus very boldly claimed that He had the power to forgive sins, that He was the Messiah they had been waiting for, and that He was God in the flesh.
 - 4. And yet, even with all this evidence before them, the scribes and Pharisees would choose not to believe. Hardening their hearts toward Jesus and ultimately fighting against the Lord, plotting to kill him, rather than submit to Him.
- B. How much evidence do you need to come to the place where you are ready to make a decision for Christ? Eternity hangs in the balance, don't put off the decision to surrender your life to Christ. Take a step of faith and yield your life to Him.
- 1. It really isn't evidence that you lack, it is faith. Faith is what is needed, and God has given to each of us a measure of faith that is more than sufficient to come to Him.
 - 2. Stop with the excuses and give your life to the Lord.
- C. This paralytic responded to Jesus' invitation and he immediately did what Jesus called him to do. He rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house glorifying God.
- 1. It's cool to see here that Jesus gave this man the power to do that which He called him to do.
 - 2. Jesus actually called this man to do something that was physically impossible for him to do. He could not arise and take up his bed and go to his house; he was paralyzed.
 - 3. Yet, as we see here, Jesus empowered this paralytic to accomplish that which He called him to.
 - 4. Jesus does the same in our life as well. Jesus will never call us to do something that He won't first **empower us with the ability to do so.**

- a. Whatever God calls you to, He will empower you to fulfill that calling.
- b. Don't let fear of something you think impossible, keep you from stepping out in faith and trusting God for the strength to accomplish all that He has called you to.

D. Real quick let's look at our final verse and we'll wrap this up; verse 26.

IX. Luke 5:26;

- A. Three things we see that came about amongst the masses that witnessed this incredible miracle of Jesus forgiving and healing this paralytic man.
 - 1. First we see that all were amazed. The crowd had seen Jesus perform miraculous healings before, and yet they said "We have seen strange things today. In Mark's gospel it says, "We never saw anything like this." (**Mk. 2:12b**)
 - a. What was different about this healing? Jesus healed not only this man physically, but also spiritually, dealing with and supplying this man's greatest need; the forgiveness of sins.
 - b. Because Jesus pronounced the forgiveness of this man's sins, and He then proved that He had the power and authority to do so, the people were struck once again with amazement.
 - c. You know, I think **this ought to be the response** of each and every sinner when they realize the fact that Jesus Christ has the power and authority to forgive us our sins.
 - d. When we realize that our sins have been forgiven, that they have been washed away. When we come to the understanding that Jesus Christ supplied our

greatest need ever. We ought to respond with amazement.

e. We ought to be blown away by that. We have been given the righteousness of Christ. We will stand before the Lord and be seen in His righteousness, holy, and spotless. We will be welcomed into God's presence because Jesus Christ took care of our sins. If that isn't amazing, I don't know what is.

2. Second we see that the people glorified God.

a. The word glorified means to ascribe glory or honor to anyone, to praise, or to celebrate. To glorify God means to honor Him and to praise Him, to celebrate Him.

b. It means to render glory to Him, recognizing Him for who He is and what He has done for us. It means to celebrate with praises, worship, and adoration.

c. Again, this is **something that should be seen in every believer**. When we realize the fact that God has forgiven us our sins and provided our greatest need, our response ought to be praise, it ought to be worship, it ought to us rendering to God all that is due Him for who He is and for all He's done for us.

3. Third we see that the people were filled with great fear.

a. The word "fear" carries with it the idea of reverence, respect, and honor.

b. To fear God is to respect and honor God. The way that we do that is to give to God the respect, reverence, admiration, adoration, awe, praise, submission, and obedience what are due to Him.

c. It means to worship Him in all our attitudes, affections, and actions.

- d. I think Jesus summed it up best when He calls us to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our minds. (**Mt. 22:37**)
- e. Fearing God and honoring Him cannot be limited to external acts alone, Jesus commands us to honor God not only in our deeds, but also in our words, and in our hearts.
- f. And again, I do believe this ought to be the life and attitude of every single believer in the Lord. That we would fear the Lord with a holy reverence, that we would respect God and honor God by loving Him with everything we have.

4. Amen? Amen. Let's pray.

X. Conclusion;

- A. As we set our hearts to worship the Lord at this time, I want to encourage you all to lift up your voices to the Lord and glorify Him for who He is and what He's done for us.
- B. Also, I want to encourage any who are here that need prayer, to come forward after service. I'll be up here waiting to pray for you.
- C. And lastly, if there is anyone here this morning, that needs to receive the precious gift of salvation, the forgiveness of sins, I would love to talk to you about making a decision for Christ and pray with you.
 - 1. This last week I had the privilege of sharing the gospel with the kids during VBS and we encouraged the kids to make a decision for Christ. I think it only fitting that we would do the same for the adults this week.
 - 2. To make a decision for Christ involves just a few simple things.
 - a. It involves repentance. A changing of your mind that will lead to a change in your actions. Repentance is

us agreeing with God that His ways are best and that we want to live according to His ways.

- b. It involves admitting your need for forgiveness. It involves confessing to Jesus that you have fallen short, that you have sinned and that you know and realize that you need Jesus to forgive you.
 - c. It involves belief. You must believe in your heart that Jesus came to this earth, lived a perfect life, laid that life down upon the cross for you, paying the penalty for your sins, and rising again three days later.
3. If you repent and confess your sin and need for forgiveness and believe in the work Jesus did for you, then the Scriptures affirm that you will be saved and God will forgive you of your sins and welcome you into His family to walk with Him for the rest of your days here on earth and for the rest of all eternity in heaven.
 4. If you have yet to make such a decision, I want to implore you... do so today! And if that is you, as I already mentioned, I'd love to talk to you about your decision for Christ and pray with you, so make sure to come up after service and see me.
- D. Other than that, God bless you all! Let's worship the Lord.