

Take 5!

5 Verses, 5 Questions, 5 Minutes!

Pray Often!



By Mary Kane

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Please take a moment to ask God to cleanse your heart from all unrighteousness and fill you with His Holy Spirit. Now please read Luke 5:12-16.

Please recap the major events of verses 12-14.

The leprous man was commanded by Jesus not to tell anyone about his healing.

But, to whom was the healed man to show himself?

Why was he to show himself to the priests?

Sometimes part of the purpose of suffering and sickness is to testify to others about how Jesus is working in our lives. My youngest son recently went through a series of injuries. While it was hard for him to endure this season, God used his injuries as an opportunity for Scott to testify

about his faith in Jesus Christ. It wasn't so much that he shared about how God was healing him; Scott just shared with all who would listen about his faith in Christ.

What happened as a result of the healing of the leprous man (verse 15)?

What did Jesus do as a result of intense ministry?

The NKJV translates, "So He Himself *often* withdrew into the wilderness and prayed." The NKJV includes the word *often* to indicate that the "imperfect tense" was employed; the imperfect tense implies a continual action. Blue Letter Bible states concerning the imperfect tense: "The imperfect tense generally represents continual or repeated action. Where the present tense might indicate "they are asking," the imperfect would indicate "they kept on asking."

When traced back in the original Greek, the definition of the word *withdrew* is very meaningful. It means what you think it means: to go back, to withdraw. But, it also means to leave space, to make room, *to have space or room for receiving* or holding something (emphasis mine). One of the reasons that God calls us to spend time with Him on a daily basis is so that we can receive from Him everything we need pertaining to life and godliness. Different stages of life require different levels of ministering and energy. When my son's injuries were at their worst, I was very tired and drained. I needed to take time to rest and refuel in the Presence of God more than ever; I could not afford to miss my Quiet Time.

Notice also that Jesus went *by Himself* to the wilderness to pray. He didn't take anyone with Him, He didn't go to the local coffee house, Jesus went to a quiet place where He wouldn't be disturbed. We need to do the same thing! We need to carve time out of our busy schedule of serving, ministering and working *to make room to receive* power, energy, love and wisdom from our Father so we can continue to minister to our husbands, wives, children, the body of Christ and the lost.

Parents especially need to take time to rest and pray. The greater the ministry, the greater the need for prayer and time spent with the Father.

You may feel that you don't have time to spend reading God's Word or praying. Let me encourage you to *tithe* your time anyway and trust in the Father to *multiply* your remaining time and energy as you continue to minister and serve those in need. God bless you my friend!

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