

First-Responder Followers of Christ
Luke 5:12-16 & 27-32

Many Christians focus on the _____ when they encounter people who suffer from a _____ with the world and sin. Luke 5 links two incidents to make a massive theological point about responding to people in need of Jesus.

The 1st incident is about a man with leprosy. A Jewish audience would know that this disease caused him to be pronounced ritually _____. He was cut off from people, the _____ and the sacrificial system. His condition was perceived as God's _____ for some sin. Without access to the temple sacrifices, he couldn't receive _____ and _____. Levi was considered a traitor and extortioner. Like the leper, he was banned from the temple. Both the leper and Levi were functionally _____ to decent Jewish society and cut off from God's mercy. You couldn't _____ a leper. You couldn't _____ with tax collectors.

So, Jesus _____ the leper and joins the tax collector and his friends for a _____. He was addressing the most significant needs of these men: to be given _____ and real _____. To be _____ into the forgiving, loving presence of God.

A Christian steps into a broken world to point people to the Great Physician. 1) Like a paramedic, our job is to stabilize people injured by a broken world with a touch of _____, _____, and the truth about _____ and gently _____ people to the Great Physician. 2) Like a paramedic, we can't get distracted trying to "_____" people's _____ problems; their external habits, _____ views, or social flaws first.

Many instances of church hurt come when we try to _____ the work of the Great Physician and step out of the role of 1st responder. We can't manipulate, argue, or otherwise _____ people to be saved. We can't try to "fix" them and make them more _____ to us or to Jesus. We are to _____ the person by reaching out with love, acceptance, and the truth about salvation. Then, to _____ them to the one who can _____: Jesus.