



Alone But Not Lonely (Luke 5:12-16) Combating Loneliness (Part 5)

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus meets us in our isolation, brings us into community, and invites us into solitude. With Jesus, we can learn to be alone without being lonely because he is always with us.

OPENING

- When was the last time you sought to be alone to recharge your batteries? What was it like? How often do you do this?

DIGGING DEEPER

- According to Bible scholar Tomohiro Omiya, the word translated “leprosy” refers to any kind of serious skin disease, not just the disease we know of as leprosy, often called Hansen’s Disease.¹ Why is knowing this important?
- Read Leviticus 13:1-46. What do you notice about how Israel dealt with serious skin diseases? What was the command to those with such a disease in vv. 45 and 46?
- What impact do you think Jesus touching the man with the skin disease had on the man?
- Why does Jesus tell the man to go to Jerusalem to be examined by the priest? According to Darrell Bock, getting pronounced clean by a priest was a process that would’ve taken a week.² Why was this examination important?

¹Tomohiro Omiya, “Leprosy,” *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (InterVarsity Press), p. 517.

²Darrell Bock, *Luke 1:1-9:50 Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament* (Baker Books). 476.

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- Why does Jesus withdraw to solitude for prayer? How often does he do this?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- This series has focused on five habits of the heart to combat loneliness:
 - Believe you were created for connection.*
 - Trust Jesus to transform you inwardly.*
 - Learn to value other people's differences.*
 - Carry your own weight.*
 - Seek solitude to be alone with Jesus.*

How would you rate yourself in each of these five habits?

- Memorize Hebrews 13:5a this week: *God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

PRAYER REQUESTS