

The Victory of God

As Christians, we celebrate God's victory through Jesus Christ in worship every week. But in story after story in Luke, Jesus extends healing and victory to outsiders, individuals who experienced suffering, rejection, and isolation in the Jewish community. Join us as we study the recurring theme of God's victory for us and for all who are marginalized or far off, and think about what this means for how we live our faith today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What does "victory" mean to you?
- Who would be considered "outsiders" of your communities?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [The Victory of God](#)

READ [Luke 5:12-16](#), [Luke 17:11-19](#), [Luke 8:1-10, 41-56](#), [Luke 13:10-17](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Reflecting on Jesus' healings in [Luke 5:12-16](#) and [Luke 17:11-19](#), host Scott Hoezee said, "With Jesus, the contagion of Jesus' holiness was always stronger than the contagion of any diseases you could name." Think about that for a few minutes. What other examples from Jesus' life and ministry support that statement? How should that idea impact our lives and our churches?
- In segment 2, host Darrell Delaney observed that "people who are far away from God...they showed more faithfulness than the people of Israel, who are supposed to have all the prophecies, have all the promises, and they are God's people." Why do you think this happened? When have you seen this still happen today?
- At the start of segment 3, Scott and Darrell discuss how the Pharisees criticized Jesus for healing on the Sabbath because there were religious rules against working on the Sabbath. In what ways do you think Christians in the church today inadvertently put the letter of the law before the restoration of a person, an image-bearer, to God and the community?
- As a follower of Jesus, how has God pushed you out of your comfort zone?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 12:1-14](#), [Mark 2:23-28](#), [Acts 2:36-39](#)

CONCLUSION

As they conclude, Scott and Darrell identified three takeaways from their study of Luke's inclusive focus on the victory of God:

1. We need to *see* those who are outside, to know who they are, and to know that they exist.
2. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us overcome the causes of division that keep us from befriending them.
3. We need to accept that when we do what Jesus did and include outsiders in God's victory, we might be criticized by people, even by fellow believers.

Which of these takeaways do you feel God is calling you to reflect on? Dedicate some time this week to pray about how you can share God's victory with those who are far off.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/the-victory-of-god>

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