

# **“Who Can Forgive Sins?”**

## **Luke 5:17-26**

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### **I. Introduction**

- A. Today in our study of Luke, we come to another miracle of healing
  - 1. It’s the healing of the paralytic
  - 2. We last saw Jesus cleanse a leper
  - 3. Leprosy was a picture of uncleanness of sin
  - 4. Today, the paralytic is a picture of the paralysis of sin
  - 5. In this text, we learn that Jesus is God and has the authority to forgive our sins, and can give us the power to walk in His ways
  - 6. I want to consider this story through the eyes of Jesus; as Jesus looked around, what did He see?

### **II. Jesus Looked Up and Saw the Persistent Men (Luke 5:17-20a)**

- A. They had love (for their needy friend)
  - 1. The story is also recorded in Matthew 9 and Mark 2
  - 2. It was in Capernaum and “in the house” (Mark 2:1)
  - 3. “Many were gathered together...no room” (Mark 2:2)
  - 4. Jesus saw their faith (v. 20)
  - 5. Because of their love, they overcame great obstacles
  - 6. They vandalized another’s property to achieve their end
- B. They had conviction (or hope)
  - 1. Coupled with their love for their friend was their conviction that Jesus was the only hope
  - 2. “Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)
- C. They had faith (v. 20)
  - 1. “He saw their faith” (v. 20)
  - 2. Whose faith did Jesus see?
  - 3. What is faith? How do you see faith?
  - 4. Real faith is seen by our works
  - 5. Real faith is also:
    - a) Persistent (it doesn’t give up)
    - b) Creative (tore the roof open)
    - c) Sacrificial (it cost them)
  - 6. These four men understood what was important. Too many Christians are more interested in the place of worship rather than the people or the loveliness of the service, rather than the lostness of the sinner.
  - 7. Let’s have a faith that works
    - a) Frank Faith (He believed Jesus could heal)
    - b) Harry Hope (He believed Jesus would heal)
    - c) Larry Love (He said I love you, won’t you come to Jesus)
    - d) Dan Determination (He said, Let’s not quit, let’s get you to Jesus)
  - 8. Let’s bring sinners to Jesus

### III. Jesus Looked Down and Saw the Paralyzed Man (Luke 5:20b)

- A. "...He said unto him, man your sins are forgiven you" (v. 20)
  - 1. Jesus saw not only His paralyzed legs, but He also saw, more importantly, His paralyzed soul
  - 2. Jesus, seeing the man's faith (He made no request for forgiveness)
    - a) But Jesus sees and knows our supreme need is that of the forgiveness of sin
    - b) Our greatest need is spiritual
    - c) Jesus said, "Be of good cheer" (Matthew 9:2)
    - d) The Jews and sickness + sin
    - e) No doubt, the lame man was longing to be forgiven
    - f) *"The world has superficially diagnosed man's disease and is woefully wrong about the remedy."* – A. Maclaren
    - g) Society treats the symptoms, but Jesus came to take away the cause (sin)
  - 3. The paralytic man is a picture of all men
    - a) Illustration- In Adam's fall, we fell ill
    - b) Illustration- (2 Samuel 9)
  - 4. The forgiveness of sin is a great miracle
    - a) It's supernatural (only God can)
    - b) It's complete (all our sins)
    - c) It's certain ("are forgiven you") (v. 20)
    - d) It's permanent (are forgiven)
  - 5. Forgiveness
    - a) Meets our greatest need
    - b) Cost the greatest price (the cross)
    - c) It brings the greatest blessing

### IV. They Looked Around and Perceived the Hard Hearts of the Scribes and Pharisees (Luke 5:21-26)

- A. The miracle of Christ's perception
  - 1. Perceiving faith
  - 2. Perceiving the need for forgiveness
  - 3. Perceiving the thoughts of the Scribes and the Pharisees
- B. The miracle of Christ's power (vv. 24-26)
  - 1. Power that proves (Jesus is God)
  - 2. Power that pictures (salvation, a type)
- C. The miracle of Christ's pardon
  - 1. Jesus can forgive sin
  - 2. It's here and now

### V. Conclusion

- A. Our greatest need is for forgiveness
- B. Forgiveness is an exclusively divine act
- C. Jesus is God, and is willing and ready to forgive your sins

D. You must come to Him in faith

1. Realize
2. Repent
3. Receive