

# Forgives

Feb. 7, 2021

Luke 5:17-26

Imagine that you are in a primitive home with very few windows or doors in the first century packed in so tight that no one else could fit. As Jesus is speaking, pieces of the ceiling begin to fall in, and your attention is drawn upward. Suddenly, light pierces into the room and you and everyone else shades their eyes to see what was happening.

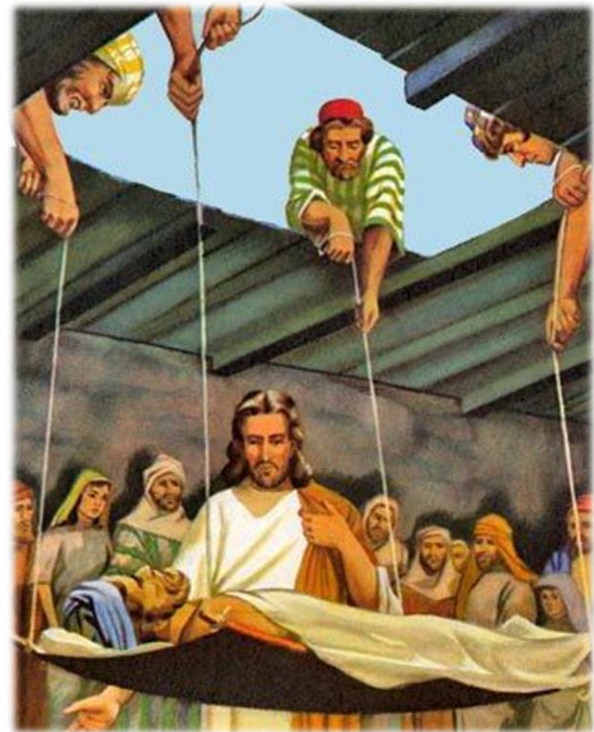
There is a hole in the ceiling, and it is getting larger and larger until it isn't the ceiling anymore, it is a man being lowered from the roof. The man is motionless. Jesus looks at him in his eyes and you wonder what will happen next.

You are all anxiously waiting for the next words and then Jesus says something totally unexpected. ***"Friend, your sins are forgiven you."*** Did Jesus really just forgive his sins? Before the religious leaders even speak, Jesus asks a question, "Which is easier, to say: 'Your sins are forgiven you', or to say, 'get up, pick up your mat, and go home?'" The man on the mat did not even wait for them to answer the question, he literally got up, picked up his mat, and went home glorifying God.

Through our faith in Jesus, we have forgiveness. And in that forgiveness, there is healing and freedom? We do not have to imagine being at this first century event to experience forgiveness. Jesus offers it to us freely on our acceptance and trust of Him. As we live out this freedom, people will see Jesus in us and the we will glorify God. [excerpts from Russ Wilkins]

## **Hope Demonstrated** (Luke 5:17-19)

- After Jesus called Peter, James, John and Levi (Matthew), He demonstrated compassion to the sick (e.g. leprosy and other afflictions) and confronted the hypocrisy of religious leaders.
- In this passage, we find Jesus teaching in a Capernaum home where many were gathered to hear him including Pharisees and scribes of the law from Galilee, Judaea and Jerusalem.
- ***"the power of the Lord was present to heal them"*** – Jesus always had the power to heal and today's passage shows us that power extended to healing our spirit from sin.
- Unable to approach Jesus because of the crowd of people, four men lowered their paralyzed friend from the roof, through the ceiling, down to where Jesus was teaching.
  - ***"because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down"***
  - Their purpose was to ***"lay him before"*** Jesus. Their faith was in Jesus to heal.
- Why didn't the homeowner stop the men on the roof? Maybe a quick glance from Jesus was all it took to say it's alright. Jesus had compassion and would reward the men's faith.
- What drove those four men to get their friend to Jesus?
  - They had hope in Jesus – He could heal their friend.
  - We too can place our hope and trust in Jesus for our personal needs and to bring others to Him.



➤ **What obstacles get in your way in seeking Jesus?**

**Forgiveness Granted** (Luke 5:20-24)

- Jesus turned His attention away from the men on the roof to the man laying before Him.
- Everyone waited to see what Jesus would do or say.
- ***“When He saw their faith, He said unto him, ‘Thy sins are forgiven’”*** - Forgiveness is always linked to faith.
  - Most expected Jesus would heal the man of paralysis.
- When Jesus spoke to the ‘Man’, ***“Thy sins are forgiven thee”*** it was not exactly what people expected to hear.
  - In fact, Luke tells the scribes and Pharisees began to mumble and complain.
    - ***“Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”***
- Jesus is making a major point about His divine nature. He is the Son of God. He is God.
- Jesus knowing their thoughts, asks ***“what reason ye in your hearts?”***
- ***“What is easier to say, ‘thy sins are forgiven’ or ‘rise up and walk?’”***
  - Jesus wanted the people to understand that as the Messiah, He had the power to forgive sins.
- To prove His power, He spoke to the paralytic again ***“Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.”*** There could be no doubt, Jesus had the power to heal. But He more importantly He has the power to forgive sin. Jesus forgives all who come to Him in faith.
- **Why do we find faith being a necessary ingredient for miracles to occur?**
- **What would you have done next having witnessed Jesus words and actions that day?**

**Praise Offered** (Luke 5:25-26)

- ***“Immediately he rose up before them ... and departed to his own house.”***
- Remember the man was unable to enter the house due to the crowd (multitude) of people. Do you think those same people made way for him to depart? Sure they did.
- ***“And they were all amazed”*** – The people had come to hear Jesus teach. The scribes and Pharisees had come to find fault with Jesus. But at this event, they **all** were amazed!
  - Not only can Jesus heal our infirmities, but as Messiah (the Son of God) He forgives sin!
- ***“and they glorified God”*** – When the paralytic man departed the house, rightly so, he was glorifying God. When Jesus forgave sins and healed the man, the overwhelming response among all the people was to glorify God. Glorify means to praise and worship.
  - Even the scribes and Pharisees could not contain their emotion. They were filled with fear.
    - Fear means awe-inspired reverence for God.
- How about you? Are you filled with awe-inspired reverence for God when you see His love for us? Share what Jesus means to you with someone this week.
- **What does it mean to have your sins forgiven?**
- **Have you seen strange things that could only be from God?**

**Biblical Truth:**

**Jesus has the power to forgive sin.**

*“Look among the nations! Observe!*

*Be astonished! Wonder!*

*Because I am doing something in your days—*



**RISE UP &  
WALK**  
...He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses

