

## Luke 5 pt 3

### Luke 5:17-26 (NASB)

<sup>17</sup> One day He was teaching; and there were *some* Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting *there*, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and *from* Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was *present* for Him to perform healing. <sup>18</sup> And *some* men *were* carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. <sup>19</sup> But not finding any *way* to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle *of the crowd*, in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Seeing their faith, He said, "**Friend, your sins are forgiven you.**" <sup>21</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this *man* who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" <sup>22</sup> But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "**Why are you reasoning in your hearts?** <sup>23</sup> **Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?** <sup>24</sup> **But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,**"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home." <sup>25</sup> Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. <sup>26</sup> They were all struck with astonishment and *began* glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."

1. ...Luke was a physician. It has been said that a minister sees men at their best, a lawyer sees men at their worst, but a physician sees men as they really are...(Pritchard)
  - a. Luke is showing people as they really are
    - i. In last study, we looked at the leper healed by Jesus
2. Here, Jesus is in a home in Capernaum teaching, as His custom
3. Teachers of the law and Pharisees are there to hear Him
  - a. Most of which have no desire to learn
  - b. They're looking for a reason to stop the popular preacher
  - c. Jesus has no issues with them being there listening

- d. His heart is for all people and wants all to be saved
- e. This home is so crowded, it's impossible to get inside

## **I. Friends**

## **II. Faith**

## **III. Forgiveness**

### **I. Friends**

1. A man who was paralyzed relies on friends to bring him to Jesus
2. We don't know much about the 4 friends except their obvious love for the paralyzed man
3. Jesus is known to travel and may never be back
4. The need is urgent and there is no known cure for him
5. They need to get this friend to Jesus
6. **We learn a few things from the mention of idea of friends**
  - a. **True friends will not leave you when you're down**
    - i. One of the marks of real friendship is staying through thick & thin
    - ii. Acquaintances look out for themselves
      1. They'll abandon you when the going gets tough
    - iii. True friends are rare and a gift from God
    - iv. **Prov 17:17** A friend loves at all times...
  - b. **True friends will lift you higher**

- i. When things get tough and every avenue seems closed, the way up is always available
- ii. Their plan was to go higher than the crowds
- iii. Maybe they were inspired by the story of Joseph
- iv. **Gen 49:22** "Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine by a spring. His branches run over the wall.
- v. There are obstacles in our path, but we can go higher than the obstacles
- vi. We have a God who is calling us higher than the walls and mountains around us
- vii. The blessing of having friends who will carry you higher when you need help
- viii. **When the conventional methods failed, they went up**
- ix. If we want to go higher, then we have an open door to do so in prayer
- x. Going up can be pictured as intercessory prayer on behalf of their friend
- xi. We lift up those who cannot raise themselves
- xii. We are invited to go higher for ourselves and for our loved ones and bring them to Jesus
- xiii. **James 5:16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

**c. Jesus calls us friends (John 15:15)**

- i. **Prov 18:24** ... there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
  - ii. **As a friend, He takes us higher**
- d. **Hebrews 7:25** Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- e. **Who are your friends?**
- f. The best of friends will bring you to Jesus no matter the cost

## II. Faith

- 1. When Jesus saw their faith
  - a. **Faith is visible**
  - b. Faith begins in the heart and manifests outwardly
    - i. Like a seed planted is unseen but eventually sprouts
  - c. True faith has corresponding action
  - d. By faith Abel **offered** to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain
  - e. By faith Noah... **prepared** an ark for the saving of his household
  - f. By faith Abraham **obeyed** when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going
  - g. By faith Sarah herself also **received** strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised

- h. Faith must have a response to what you believe
  - i. A person who believes he's in a burning building will exit quickly
  - ii. One who believes the dr. test results will take the medication
  - iii. A person who believes in the promises of God will rest on God's faithfulness
  - iv. Those who believe in the healing virtue of our Lord will bring others before Him
  
- 2. **James 2:18** But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! <sup>20</sup> But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?
  - a. Those who say they have faith in Christ will have evidence
    - i. A love for God
    - ii. A love for the people of God
    - iii. A love for a dying world
    - iv. Obedience to the Word of the Lord
  
    - v. A hatred for sin and its effects
  
- 3. Because these 4 had faith in Jesus, they found a way to bring their friend to the Master
  - a. When He saw their faith...
  
  - b. God responds to our faith, not the needs**
    - i. Many have serious needs
  
    - ii. Luke 7 will have the centurion who's servant was sick

1. Jesus honors his faith
- iii. Those who believe in God and approach God find answers
- iv. Is your faith in Christ alone today?**
- v. Is there any evidence of your faith?**

### **III. Forgiveness**

1. Friend, your sins are forgiven you
  - a. Jesus is so in tune with each person's needs
  - b. You can picture his friends reacting as they hear "your sins are forgiven"
  - c. But the man's greatest need was forgiveness**
  - d. Physical death will eventually knock on everyone's door and forgiveness is what we need the most
  - e. Our greatest need today is forgiveness and being reconciled to God**
  - f. This also should teach us an important lesson on prayer**
  - g. God knows what we need more than we do**
    - i. Let's end our petitions with "let your will be done"**
    - ii. Our Lord responds in Psalm 91:14** "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;  
I will set him on high, because he has known My name.  
<sup>15</sup> He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;  
I *will be* with him in trouble;

I will deliver him and honor him.  
<sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy him,  
And show him My salvation.”

2. The religious in the crowd began to reason saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
3. Jesus knows their thoughts & answers the questions they didn’t verbalize
  - a. This is one of many passages that shows that God knows what we are thinking
  - b. We don't have to verbalize a thought for God to know it
    - i. He knows every thought
    - ii. Before we even speak a word, God knows what we're thinking (Ps. 139)
  - c. Which is easier to say, Your sins are forgiven you, or to say, Rise up and walk? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins...
  - d. I say to you, arise take up your bed and go to your house
4. The man walked home carrying his bed
  - a. **How do we know that our sins are forgiven? By our walk**
4. **The thing that carried me has become my testimony**
5. The question each of us needs to ask today is
  - a. Am I the paralyzed man who needs help and others...?
  - b. Am I the friend who is able to bring others to the Lord

- c. What Jesus did with this paralyzed man He wants to do with each one paralyzed by sin today