

Your Sins are Forgiven You

- Reading: Luke 5

- 17) On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.
- 18) And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus,
- 19) but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.
- 20) And when he saw their faith, he said, ***“Man, your sins are forgiven you.”***
- 21) And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
- 22) When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts?
- 23) Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’?
- 24) But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” - he said to the man who was paralyzed - “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.”
- 25) And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.
- 26) And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”

- A typical roof at the time of Jesus was about 14 inches thick
- Beams were first covered with branches and then a thick layer of plaster
- On top of the plaster were ceramic tiles about 24 inches long in order to waterproof the building
- Jesus was on the inside
- They were on the outside
- We don't know much about this man who was paralyzed

- We don't know if he'd been paralyzed his whole life, or if it was an accident
- We do know that he had some good friends
- Determined friends
- They had carried him all through town to the house where Jesus was
- In verse 17 it says that on this day, ***"the power of the Lord was with him to heal"***
- This might imply that on other days it wasn't
- Maybe they had carried this man around before, and he wasn't healed then
- All we know now is that Jesus was there, they were there, and they wanted to see this Paralyzed man healed
- And they didn't want to wait around
- Who knows how long the power of the Lord was going to be healing through Jesus today, they knew that they had to get him in there right now
- The crowd was too large for 2 or 3 men carrying a bed to get through
- But, they were determined
- They went up the side stairs to the roof where the family normally enjoyed a quiet meal in the cool of the evening
- And they tore the roof off
- There is no gentle and quiet way to tear a roof off a building
- They made quick a ruckus and caused quite a commotion
- Everyone would have stopped, looked up and noticed them
- Everyone would have seen this bed being lowered down into the room on ropes right to the feet of Jesus
- Everyone would have been amazed at the impressive effort that these men put forth on behalf of their friend
- The guys in the front of the line might have been a little upset about having their place taken, but nonetheless, even they would have been impressed at the determination of these men to lay their friend before Jesus

- Even Jesus noticed
- Look at verse 20:
20) And **when he saw their faith**, he said, *“Man, your sins are forgiven you.”*
- Jesus doesn’t see people cutting to the front of the line
- Jesus doesn’t see people vandalizing someone’s roof
- Jesus sees people who are so faithful that they know all they have to do is bring their friend and lay him at the feet of Jesus
- So, because of their awesome faith he heals the man
- Right? Wrong!
- Did you notice that the first thing that Jesus does isn’t healing the man?
- They’ve gone through this Herculean effort, the crowd comes to a hush, Jesus compliments them on the faith that they have shown...
- And he says, ***“Your sins are forgiven you”***
- He doesn’t ask the man what he wants, like he does with other people
- Let’s look at some other stories similar to this one:

Mark 10:46-52

- 46) And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.
- 47) And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”
- 48) And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”
- 49) And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.”
- 50) And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.
- 51) And Jesus said to him, **“What do you want me to do for you?”** And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.”
- 52) And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

- Or maybe this reaction:

John 5:1-9

- 1) After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- 2) Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades.
- 3) In these lay a multitude of invalids - blind, lame, and paralyzed.
- 5) One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.
- 6) When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, **“Do you want to be healed?”**
- 7) The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.”
- 8) Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.”
- 9) And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

- Nothing like that happens in this case...
- Jesus sees this faithful effort and rewards it by saying, **“Your sins are forgiven you”**
- And there doesn’t seem to be any reaction from the paralyzed man
- Or, his friends!
- “Wait a minute! We carried him this far, and we had to tear the roof off, just to lower him down here, and you aren’t going to heal him!”
- The paralyzed man had risked a lot to get this far
- What if he had fallen off the mat while being lowered down?
- He would have gotten hurt even worse than he was
- He wouldn’t have been able to stop his fall, and would just lay there helpless
- And he needed to be healed! He was paralyzed?
- But, he doesn’t say a thing...
- I wonder if he understood something very important
- I wonder if he understood something that is important for each one of us to learn in our lives

- Maybe he understood that **Eternal Salvation is more important than Temporal Comfort**
- Having our sins forgiven is more important than having our pains lessened
- Having our sins forgiven frees us from the bondage of this world, and prepares us for eternity in God's Kingdom
- Imagine being paralyzed
- Sure, it's something that you want to get rid of in your life
- But, also it's something that might allow you to think clearly about your future without you being distracted by the busyness of life
- If you could only choose one, it makes the decision a little clearer
- Would you rather have your sins forgiven and be given a place in the Kingdom, or would you rather get 30 to 40 years of comfort here on Earth before you die?
- In Jesus' day, people taught that if you were sick or suffering, you were being punished for something that you had done in your life
- If you were paralyzed, you might feel guilty because your whole life you had heard that teaching in the Synagogue
- Sometimes maybe you've felt guilt in your life
- Sometimes we cause our own problems, and sometimes they just happen because of the broken world that we live in
- But, feeling guilty is one of the leading causes of depression and sleeplessness in our society
- Guilt is regretting the past
- Guilt is blaming yourself
- Guilt can destroy even the strongest and most confident of people
- So, maybe this man REALLY wanted his sins forgiven
- Maybe he was happy when Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven you"
- But, the Scribes and Pharisees weren't

Luke 5:21-22

- 21) And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
- 22) When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts?”

- Of course, the crowd was silent as the roof was torn off, and this paralyzed man on a mat was lowered down to Jesus
- And everyone was quiet as Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven you”
- But, the Scribes and the Pharisees were thinking about what had happened
- They couldn’t wrap their heads around anyone except God forgiving sins
- And Jesus knew it
- Jesus could perceive their thoughts
- And he says to them:

Luke 5:23-24

- 23) Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’?
- 24) But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” - he said to the man who was paralyzed - “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.”

- Not only did Jesus know their thoughts, but he knew that this was going to happen
- It’s no coincidence that he performs this miracle in this order
- He not only wants to forgive this poor man his sins, and provide him a hope of the promise of the Kingdom...
- But, he also wants to teach the Scribes and the Pharisees a lesson in doing so
- Jesus wants everyone to know that he has Authority to forgive our sins
- So, in order to drive that point home, he says to the paralyzed man, “pick up your bed and go home”

Luke 5:25

25) And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.

- And that is exactly what happens
- And look at the amazing effect that it has on everyone

Luke 5:26

26) And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

- It really was an impressive scene
- What an amazing moment that was for everyone in the crowd...
- Wouldn't it be great if Jesus did something amazing in our life to prove to us that our sins are forgiven?
- He has done something!
- A bigger miracle than the one we read about today!
- Jesus rose from the dead!
- The greatest miracle of them all!
- That was Jesus' way of reminding us every single Sunday when we meet together and remember his resurrection, for us to remember that he has forgiven our sins
- When we are baptized we enter into a relationship with Christ
- A very special relationship where we serve him out of love
- When we take this Bread and Wine it is a reminder each week that we have dedicated our life to service in thanks for the wonderful gift that we've been given
- Because like the paralyzed man lowered down through the roof, we understand that having our sins forgiven is even more important than anything else in this world