

Luke 5:17-26 (NIV)

17One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. 18Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

20When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

21The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

22Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 24But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....” He said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” 25Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

42-05-01-Encountering the Healing Savior
healing, salvation, evangelism, discipleship,
Luke 5:17-26
Christ turns crippled sinners into walking saints.

INTRODUCTION:

–v.17a, *One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. (Christ’s teaching ministry attracted crowds of people, but among them were often those who didn’t come to learn but to scrutinize Him.)*

–Jesus taught us by His behavior, as well as by His words– v.17b, *And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. (By His spiritual attentiveness, Jesus taught us the key to His earthly ministry and the key to our successful journey through life.)*

–Attentiveness played a major role in the healing of the paralytic. Sin has the power to paralyze us in many ways, but HOM.idea. This story begins with the attentiveness of some other people...

- I. **The Friends of a Crippled Sinner– v.18.** *Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.*
 - A. Real friends are attentive to the needs of those they care about.
 1. They care by spending time and effort [praying, visiting, inviting]
 2. They recognize conditions of paralysis (physical & spiritual)
 - a. whether born that way, infected that way, or wounded that way
 - b. by family upbringing, Satanic traps, emotional wounding.
 3. They hope for a divine miracle (even if their friend loses hope).
 - B. They had to get their friend past the crowd into the Presence– v.19, *When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. [People can hide in crowds—we must bring them to Jesus, not just to Sunday worship or a mid-week Bible study].*
 - C. v.20a, *When Jesus saw their faith...* (God recognizes corporate faith)
 1. His corporate plan is the Church (“I will build my church”)
 2. But in that plan, He deals with us one-on-one, dealing with our special needs individually– v.20b, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”
 - a. He made this declaration by attentiveness to the Spirit (How do we know? John 20:21-23. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are

forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

- b. Salvation is much more than the forgiveness of sins, BUT God wants us to know that His salvation for each individual must include this crucially important “release” from sins....

TRANS: Christ turns crippled sinners into walking saints. Friends are a great help in this. They can bring individuals they care about face to face with Christ, where the miracle of spiritual healing can take place. But not everyone wants the spiritual problems of others resolved.

II. The Foes of the Sinner’s Savior– v.21, *The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*

- A. Who would be opposed to sinners being released from their sins?
1. Those jealous of it happening outside their jurisdiction? (maybe religious leaders, psychologists, even relatives);
 2. Those doubting that God is real or is at work in people’s lives?
 3. Those trying to hide their own need of God’s forgiveness?
- B. Were the Pharisees right (“God alone” can “forgive sins”), or were they using God’s role in forgiveness as an excuse not to get involved themselves as Jesus was, and as He would later authorize us to be?
- C. By the Holy Spirit, Jesus stayed attentive to God, from Whom no evil thinking can be hidden– v.22, *Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?”*
1. Satan can play parlor tricks with occult “mind-reading” games.
 2. But the Spirit’s prophetic word brings conviction– **1Cor 14:24-25**.
But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

TRANS: Satan distracts sinners; Jesus directs them. Satan wants us to miss the path to salvation; Jesus wants us to enter that path and to walk in it. Jesus brings us not only salvation from sin but deliverance from sin’s power. **He turns crippled sinners into walking saints** with...

III. The Fullness of the God’s Salvation

- A. God’s perfect salvation is both forgiveness and deliverance
1. In God’s eyes, forgiveness is a simple, basic matter– v.23, *Which is*

easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?

2. In effect, Jesus is saying that the special work of healing is a much greater, more complex matter than forgiving sins:
 - a. Sin has had a disintegrating power in all areas of human life.
 - b. Sin’s paralyzing effects has allowed Satan to manipulate wills.
 - c. **BUT** sin’s power is defeated by Christ and His followers, when “*the power of the Lord [is] present for [them] to heal*”: **‘Get up and walk’!**
- B. God’s full salvation is from a perfect Savior [the Messiah is a human.]
 1. His work made His identity known– v.24a, *But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....* [echoed in **Heb 7:25**, he is able to **save completely** those who come to God through him].
 2. Jesus doesn’t stop at the start [forgiveness]– **Phil 1:6**, he who began a good work in you will carry it on **to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus.
 3. We are to live out salvation’s eternal life now, today!– v.24b, *He said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”*
 - a. **It means:** leaving our paralysis and listening to a new Master;
 - b. taking hold of former paralyzing habits (mats of old behaviors);
 - c. living as liberated pilgrims, journeying heavenward.
- C. God’s full salvation produces a perfected saint, v.25, *Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. (Crippled sinners that become walking saints...*
 1. Stand up boldly before crowds of doubters;
 2. They take control over what once controlled them;
 3. They begin a heavenly journey homeward in victory and praise, rejoicing in their relationship with Christ the Savior and Healer!

CONCLUSION:

–v.26, *Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”* Enthusiasm comes and goes with the crowd. Doubters who “have seen remarkable things today” may fall back into skepticism tomorrow.

–But God isn’t into show business. He doesn’t forgive sins and heal people to show off His power to the crowds or to doubters. He forgives and heals because of love. God loves people and wants to release them from sin and from the paralysis caused by sin. He wants to **turn crippled sinners into walking saints**. That’s what we need ourselves, and that’s what Jesus wants His followers to help others find.