

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Part 11: Raising the Roof

Scripture Background: "Jesus' activities inevitably brought him into confrontation with the religious authorities. The Gospels actually focus on several such occasions. Luke is especially concerned in his gospel and in Acts to clarify the original relationship between Christianity and Judaism and to show the reasons why the Gospel had to break out of the confines of Judaism. Here he stresses the authority of Jesus once more. In [4:32](#) Jesus' teaching was authoritative; [4:36](#) shows his authority over demons; [5:24](#) shows his authority to forgive sins."¹

Big Question: What is God's part and what is your part when it comes to experiencing a miracle?

Luke 5:17-26 (NKJV): Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

¹⁷ Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them.

¹⁸ Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. ¹⁹ And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with *his* bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

²⁰ When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

²² But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

²⁵ Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. ²⁶ And they were all amazed, and they

¹ Quote from Expositor's bible Commentary, NT.

glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"

Let's jump into the message:

Raising the Roof: *Doing whatever it takes to bring people to Jesus.*

6 Observations from the 4 friends who did whatever it took to bring their friend to Jesus:

1. **Have a firm _____ that Jesus is your only _____** (v. 17-18).

- People came from the surrounding towns to hear Jesus teach.
- Notice who was present among the crowd: The Pharisees and teachers of the law. Who were they?
 - They were experts in the Old Testament law.
 - They were the "guardians" of the purity of Judaism.
 - They often became rigid, legalistic, and hypocritical.²

Scripture Insight: [5:17](#) The religious leadership of Israel began to watch Jesus closely. The **Pharisees** were a group of about six thousand pious, influential teachers in the synagogues. They were a group who meticulously followed the Law, adhering to the traditional rules that kept a person from inadvertently breaking it. The **teachers of the law** were officials trained in the Law of Moses. Also known as scribes, these men were in effect the religious lawyers of the Pharisees. In Judaism in the first century there was a wide range of factions, including the Sadducees and the Essenes. The Pharisees, despite their relatively low numbers, were very influential.³

- Notice that God's healing power was present with the Person of Jesus Christ.
- The 4 friends who had 1 problem—a 5th friend who couldn't walk. We don't know what they had tried to help their friend get better?
- They had a special faith that Jesus was the One Who could heal their friend.

² Expositor's Bible Commentary.

³ Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.

2. Don't let the _____ keep you away from _____ with Jesus (v. 19a).

- Don't let temporary excuses keep you away from eternal good.
- Don't let the crowds take your focus off Jesus.

3. Embrace a can-do, whatever it takes _____ when it comes to bringing people to _____ (v. 19b).

- Look at all the obstacles that were in the way of these 4 friends bringing their friend to Jesus:
 - 1) The man's _____ condition-He couldn't walk to Jesus.
 - 2) The man's _____ condition-He didn't know Jesus yet.
 - 3) The large _____—They kept him from being close to Jesus.
- They decided to turn their distractions into their determination. They did whatever it took to get to Jesus.

4. Believe that a little _____ goes a long _____ with Jesus (v. 20).

- When Jesus saw their faith
- Do you have a little faith? Did you know that a little faith can move a large mountain?

Matthew 17:20 (NLT): "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

5. Understand that your greatest _____ is not always what you _____ it is (v. 20b-24).

- What was this man's greatest need? Physical or spiritual? Temporary or eternal? Our greatest need is always eternal.
- Which is easier to say...? Forgiving sins require much more authority and power than healing someone's paralyzed legs.

Scripture Insight: [5:23](#) Jesus posed a riddle to His audience. From an external point of view, it would seem **easier** to declare sins forgiven than to actually heal a person. In reality, however, one has to possess more authority to forgive sin. Jesus

linked the healing to what it represented, the forgiveness of sin. Jesus forgave the man's sins and healed him at the same time.⁴

- What need did Jesus meet first? His spiritual, and then his physical.
 - Notice that Jesus could read their thoughts!
- Only God can forgive sin—Notice that Jesus was indeed claiming to be God as He did not deny the scribes and Pharisees' statement.

Application: Jesus allowed a man to come to him with physical needs which led to Jesus meeting his spiritual needs.

Principle: Sometimes you have to meet someone's felt needs (physical) so that you can meet their real needs (spiritual).

6. Do what _____ can do while trusting _____ to do what only He can do (v. 18-19, 25-26).

- The 4 friends did what they could do.
- The crippled man did what he could do.

Take Home Truth: Seeing lives changed involves you doing all that you can do and allowing God to do what only He can do!

Action Steps:

Get up—Some of you need to sign up for a serve team. If you are not serving, you are swerving!

Walk—Walk towards someone who needs to be brought to Christ. Be creative and intentional about reaching those in your life who are far from Christ.

Go Deeper this week:

- **Watch**—Check out RightNowMedia--
 - The Grave Robber by Mark Batterson.

Preview for next Sunday: "A Party with a Purpose!" from Luke 5:27-32.

⁴ Quote from Thomas Nelson NJKV Study Bible.