



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Luke 5:17-26

[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."

Sermon Outline:

- I. The Setting (17)
- II. The Plight of the Paralytic (18-19)
- III. The Spiritual Healing of Jesus (20-23)
- IV. The Physical Miracle (24-26)

Life Group Leader Notes:





- ICEBREAKER: If you could witness any miracle of Jesus, which one would you choose? Why?
- The forgiveness of sins is a greater miracle than physical healing. Do you believe this? Why or why not? (This is a fairly easy question to answer, but I imagine there are people in your group that struggle to believe this, so gently press in).
- Ask your life group to discuss the relationship between sickness and sin. Is sickness *always* the cause of a specific sin? Is sickness *ever* the cause of a specific sin? Read James 5:13-16 and John 9:1-7. Why is it important to have a balanced and biblical view of this issue?
- The Pharisees did not like Jesus' pronouncement of forgiveness. They thought it was too easy. They were in favor of *earning* forgiveness. Is this how you think about forgiveness with God? Do you feel like you need to prove that you are really sorry for God to offer forgiveness? (Follow up question: think about how you treat other people in your life... do you make it easy for people to return to you, or do they need to "prove" that they are truly sorry).
- Imagine what might have happened if Jesus had only performed a physical healing but left him spiritually paralyzed. Think about this man, ten or fifteen years down the road. He is able to walk, but he is still enslaved to sin. Is his life any better? Is it worse? How might this change the way that you pray for physical healing?

This is a great sermon to discuss evangelism with your life group. As a leader, ask yourself if your group is growing in their love for the lost? What steps could you take to see people growing in this area of their discipleship? Here are a few questions that might help.

- If forgiveness of sin is a greater miracle than physical healing, would your faith be strengthened more to see a person saved, or physically healed? Would your life group be willing to commit to praying for the salvation of their lost friends?
- The paralytic's friends went to great lengths to get their friend to Jesus. What are you willing to do to bring your unsaved friends to Jesus? What is one step everyone can take this week?
 - If you do not know any nonbelievers, what is one thing you can do this week to meet someone?
 - If you already have an established relationship, what is one thing you could do to strengthen your relationship?
 - Do they know that you are a Christian? Could you invite that person to coffee/lunch so you can talk about this?
 - Do the members of your life group know your unsaved friend? Would it be helpful to schedule a meeting this weekend so the members of your group can meet this person?
 - Would it be appropriate or helpful to invite that person to your life group meeting next week?

