



Sermon Discussion Questions

February 18, 2024

Jesus in Galilee

FORGIVEN!

Luke 5:17-26

1. **Opening Discussion Questions** (in a group setting you will probably only want to do one of these questions)
 - a. Was there ever a time that you can remember when you were completely dependent upon someone else? If you are comfortable doing so, share the details. How did it make you feel that you had to rely on someone else to perform tasks you would normally do yourself? Did it change the way you felt about those helping you?
 - b. We just had a great Superbowl game between two teams that worked very hard for a long time in order to participate. What is the event or activity that you worked the hardest to attend or participate in? What did it require you to do? Was there ever an activity or event that you missed because you just didn't do quite enough? How did you feel when you learned you had fallen short?

2. Sermon Outline/Key Points

- a. Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man
 - i. A paralyzed man is carried to Jesus (Luke 5:17-19)
 - ii. Jesus shockingly forgives the man's sins (Luke 5:20-23)
 - iii. Jesus proves His power by healing the man's body (Luke 5:24-26)
- b. Jesus Can Forgive Every Sin You've Committed
 - i. The point of the story is that Jesus can forgive sins.
 - ii. Who needs to know this story? Who does God want you to tell?
- c. Forgiveness Only Comes by Grace Through Faith
 - i. Jesus forgives because the men have faith in Him.
 - ii. God's grace glorifies Him.

3. Study/Discussion Points:

- a. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to prayerfully ponder these questions:
 - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
 - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

b. Monday – Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

- i. This week’s focal passage is one of those that kids in Sunday School really like and teachers enjoy presenting. Read the focal passage, Luke 5:17-26, and the parallel passages Matthew 9:2-8 and Mark 2:3-12. As you read, jot down details in the account that you believe are important or that you wonder why they were included.
 1. If applicable, think back to when you heard this story as a child/youth. Where was the emphasis placed? What lesson were you expected to have learned?
 2. How does the first verse of each version of the event tend to focus your thinking on the rest of the story? Which one do you most identify with?
 3. If you had to summarize the message of Luke’s entire 10 verses in a single sentence, what would you say?
 4. As you read the passage what would you say is the subplot? What lesson can we learn from it?
- ii. Luke includes a statement in verse 17 that is not recorded in the other two accounts. What does he tell us that Matthew and Mark do not?
 1. Do you think that Luke is implying that Jesus had more power to heal on this occasion than on others (see Mark 5:25-30 and Luke 6:19)? If not, what do you think Luke is doing by making this statement?
 2. How might this statement relate to what Jesus read in the synagogue in Luke 4:18? What was the source of Jesus’ power?
 3. Luke speaks of Jesus’ power in several passages (4:14, 5:17, 6:19, 8:44-46) using the Greek word *dynamis*. Even without knowing any Greek what does the term imply to you about Jesus’ power?

c. Tuesday – Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

- i. Read the focal passage and Matthew 9:2-8 again.
- ii. We tend to view the Pharisees in a very negative way – and in most cases it is well deserved.
 1. What positive statements can we make about them from this passage?
 2. Considering the fact that this event is fairly early in Jesus’ earthly ministry and that we have the benefit of knowing the full story about Jesus, what do you think of their questions in verse 21?
 3. Think of it this way. If you went to the bank to cash a paycheck (does anyone do that anymore?) and the teller said, “Oh by the way you won’t owe any income tax on this deposit.” What would your reaction be? How is this similar to the situation the Pharisees were in? What makes it fundamentally different?
 4. What does Jesus’ comment in verse 24 suggest about how Jesus felt about their doubt?

5. If you had been sitting in the crowd, what should you have done (see 1 John 4:1)?
 - iii. Many modern theologians argue that Jesus never claimed to be God. How does verse 24a and Matthew 11:6 show that they were wrong? How do verses 24b-25 reinforce/prove His claim to be the Son of God (see John 10:37-38 and Matthew 11:2-5)?
 - iv. Thinking over the entire passage, how do you see the Trinity depicted?
- d. **Wednesday** – *Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man.*
- i. Before rereading the focal passage close your eyes and form a mental picture of the event. If you are like most people, you pictured four men carrying the paralyzed man. Now read Luke 5:17-26 once more.
 1. How many men does the Bible say were carrying him?
 2. While the number of men is probably unimportant (since the Bible doesn't include the number) what general lesson can we learn about how our traditions may influence our understanding of God's Word? If we tend to do this in trivial matters, what might we do with more serious passages?
 - ii. Verse 20 tells us that Jesus "saw their faith."
 1. Who do you think "their" refers to? Must the paralyzed man necessarily have had faith for his friends to carry him to Jesus? Would the men carrying necessarily have had to have faith if their friend had asked them to carry him? What does the plural "their" suggest about the entire group?
 2. Read Luke 7:9, 8:25, 8:48, 8:50, 17:19 and 18:42. What do these all have in common with 5:20?
 3. Faith is a mental attitude, but Luke says Jesus saw it. How do you see this reinforcing/validating what James taught in James 2:17-18?
 4. Luke gives us another account where Jesus tells someone "Your sins are forgiven" in Luke 7:44-50. What similarities do you see between the two accounts? How do Romans 10:9-10 and Ephesians 2:8-10 bring this home to us?
- e. **Thursday** – *Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man*
- i. In verse 23 Jesus asks the Pharisees "Which is easier?"
 1. In your opinion, which is the easier statement to say? Why?
 2. Which is the easier statement to prove that it has been accomplished?
 3. Who can prove that someone's (our) sins have been forgiven? While from a human perspective the answer is "no one", the Bible teaches us clearly that the Holy Spirit provides assurance not only of the forgiveness but of our new state as sons of God. Having an accurate understanding of these truths is critical to being able to share our faith with unbelievers but is too extensive for this lesson. However, a good starting point is to read James and 1 John.

- ii. One of the interesting details in this account is what Jesus tells the formerly paralyzed man to do in verse 24. Compare this passage with the account of Jesus healing the invalid in John 5:8.
 - 1. If you had been laying paralyzed on a mat for some lengthy period how excited would you be about continuing the association after being healed (think about if you've ever been in a hospital bed for any period)?
 - 2. Since it was an emphatic command in both cases why do you think Jesus included it? What lessons might we take from His command?

f. **Friday** – *Forgiveness comes only by Grace through Faith*

- i. What did the paralyzed man do in order to receive the forgiveness Jesus gives in verse 20?
- ii. Read these well known verses: John 3:14-18, John 5:24, Acts 16:30-31, and Romans 10:9-10. What must we do to be saved – have our sins initially forgiven?
- iii. What do Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Timothy 1:9, and Titus 3:4-7 tell us do not and cannot result lead to our salvation?
- iv. Unfortunately, we must all recognize that even after that initial act of forgiveness and justification we still continue to sin. What does 1 John 1:9 instruct us to do? How often is it necessary?

g. **Saturday** – *Who does God want you to tell?*

- i. Reread Ephesians 2:8-9 but this time include verse 10. What do you think is the “good work” that God has prepared for you? What clue does Romans 10:14 provide for what at least some of it is?
- ii. Make a list of individuals you know that need to have their sins forgiven and then spend time praying for the salvation of each one. Keep the list handy to remind you to continue praying for them.

4. **Application:**

- a. Think seriously about the relationship between “faith” and “works” in the Christian life. Do the “works” people see you doing testify to the “faith” you have in Christ? What could you do to make your faith easier to “see”?
- b. The people present for this healing were amazed and gave praise to God, but there is no mention that even a single person, including the friends who carried the man who was forgiven, said to Jesus, “Since you can forgive sins, please forgive my sins, too!” It is as if they all tragically missed Jesus’ message. What are you doing to help your friends avoid a similar tragic fate?

5. **Prayer Points:**

- a. **A**doration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. **C**onfession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. **T**hanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. **S**upplications –Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19