



May 3, 2026

Paralyzed Man

Luke 5:17-26

Intro

What if the thing you came to Jesus for isn't actually your greatest need?

Background on Luke

- Luke is the author of this Gospel.
- He was a close companion of Paul and traveled with him.
- Luke was a physician, which likely gave him a unique perspective on healing.
- Because of his medical background, the miracles of Jesus likely stood out to him in a significant way.

Pharisees and Scribes

- Who were the Pharisees and scribes?
- They were the religious authorities of the day.
- They were deeply committed to strict adherence to the Law.
- They were skeptical of Jesus and ultimately played a role in His death.

- If we really look at the Pharisees, we can see similarities to how many of us like to operate today. We like control. We like rules.

What we will see in this passage is that Jesus has the authority to forgive and to heal. Our greatest need is spiritual healing.

Luke 5:17–26 (ESV)

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. 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, 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. And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? 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." And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

About Paralysis (31 AD)

- No modern medicine or distractions. A constant awareness of suffering.
- The condition could easily become part of a person's identity.
- Likely led to deep hopelessness.
- Isolation, loneliness, and total dependence on others, especially friends and family.
- The condition of this man isn't just physical. Like all of us, he is in dire spiritual need.

The Power of God to Heal

- "The power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal."

- **Romans 1** — the Gospel as the power of God:

Romans 1:16–17 (ESV)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- Luke is showing that Jesus has supernatural authority to heal both the body and the spirit.
- The Gospel is not just a message, it is a person.
- It brings reconciliation and restoration through Jesus.
- "I am not ashamed of the gospel..."

Faith of the Friends

- These 4 friends are determined to bring the man to Jesus.
- They believe Jesus can heal, whether from hearing about or witnessing his miracles.
- The paralyzed man likely had little hope after years of suffering.
- Yet he trusts his friends enough to be carried to Jesus.
- When the crowd blocks the way, they take an unconventional route, through the roof.

The Role of Community

- The friends lower the man down, and Jesus responds to their faith.
- "Man, your sins are forgiven."
- This man surrounded himself with faithful friends.
- Who we surround ourselves with matters.
- Sometimes we rely on the faith of others when ours is weak.
- This is a powerful picture of the Church.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV)

Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

Why Forgiveness First?

- Why does Jesus address sin before physical healing?
- Because spiritual healing is the priority.
- The Gospel restores our relationship with God first.
- Jesus is revealing the deeper need, not just physical, but eternal.
- He is also confronting the Pharisees' misunderstanding.
- What matters more: temporary healing or eternal life?

Questioning Jesus' Authority

- The Pharisees accuse Jesus of blasphemy.
- They rightly state that only God can forgive sins.
- Jesus is making a bold claim, He is the Son of Man, the Messiah.
- What He does next validates His authority.

Healing and Response

- Jesus tells the man to get up, take his mat, and go home.
- The man responds in faith and obeys immediately.
- Jesus breaks the chains, but the man must walk.
- The mat that once carried him becomes a testimony.
- What once held him now points to God's power.
- Faith brings us to Jesus. If we have given our life to him, then we are never without him.
- God may be doing a deeper work beneath physical suffering. We are not alone even in suffering, he's always doing something. Turn from your sin, trust in Jesus, and keep your faith in Him and Him alone.

Worship

- The man goes home glorifying God.
- He received more than physical healing, he received hope and

restoration.

- God used his suffering to lead him to Jesus.
- **Romans 8:28 (ESV)**
And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
- When we encounter God's power and goodness, our response is worship.

Amazement and Awe (Glory to God)

- Everyone is amazed, including the Pharisees.
- They glorify God and say, "We have seen extraordinary things today."
- Jesus engages both the mind and the heart.
- But each person must decide:
 - Do I just want to know about Him?
 - Or do I truly want to know Him?
- True knowledge of Jesus leads to glorifying Him.

Application: Which one are you?

1. "Some of you are like the Pharisees: you know about Jesus, but you don't know Him."
2. "Some of you are like the man, you need healing and hope."
3. "Some of you are like the friends, you're called to bring others to Him."

Whoever you resonate most with, give your life to him today. He is the only hope in this world!