

105. Healing of the Paralytic (Luke 5:17-26)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, please bless our study today. Help us to see Jesus as Lord over all of our life, both body and soul. Please make our faith strong, so that nothing will block us from seeing You. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Luke 5:17. One day Jesus was teaching. Some Pharisees and Jewish law teachers were sitting there. They came from every small town in Galilee, Judah, and Jerusalem. Jesus had the power of the Lord to heal people.

- What was Jesus busy doing?
- Who was listening to Jesus teach? Why do you think they were there?
- Notice where the teachers were from – all over Israel. This is still the beginning of Jesus' ministry. What does that say about Jesus' popularity?

Luke 5:18-19. Look! Some men came carrying a bed. A paralyzed man lay on the bed. The men tried to bring the paralyzed man inside the house. They wanted to bring the man to Jesus. But they could not find a way inside the house because of the crowd of people. So they went up on the roof. They took tiles off the roof. They lowered him through the roof, in the middle of the room, in front of Jesus.

- Some men came to the place Jesus was teaching. What did they want?
- Were these men coming to Jesus for themselves, or to help someone else? Did they come by themselves, or did they bring someone? What can we do when we come to Jesus?
- The men faced a problem: too many people. They couldn't get to Jesus. What did they do? What does that say about their faith in Jesus?

Luke 5:20-21. Jesus saw the faith of the men. Jesus told the paralyzed man, “Friend, I forgive your sins.” The Jewish law teachers and Pharisees began thinking, “Who is this man? He says terrible things against God! Only God can forgive sins!”

- Remember why the paralyzed man came. What was the first thing Jesus did?
- Which is more important, physical healing or spiritual healing?
- What did the Jewish teachers and Pharisees think?

Luke 5:22-24. Jesus knew what the Jewish leaders were thinking. Jesus told them, “Why do you wonder in your hearts? Tell Me which is easier to say. ‘I forgive your sins,’ or ‘Stand up and walk.’ Which is easier? I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So Jesus told the paralyzed man, “I tell you, stand up, pick up your bed and go home.”

- Suppose a person was here who could not walk. Which do you think is easier to say? “I forgive your sins” or “Stand up and walk.” Why?

Luke 5:25-26. In front of everyone, the paralyzed man stood up. He picked up his bed and went home, praising God. Everyone was amazed and glorified God. Everyone was full of fear and said, “We saw amazing things today.”

- When Jesus healed the man, what did that prove?
- The people who saw all this happen were amazed. Why? Which do you think impressed them most, that Jesus healed the man, or that Jesus forgave his sins?
- Which did Jesus think was more important? Forgiving sins or healing? What should amaze us? What should encourage us most to glorify God?