

LESSON THREE

JESUS HEALS A PARALYTIC

LUKE 5:17-26

1. Read and re-read the passage. Who are the people in this passage? Where does this miracle take place? Does that have anything to do with the miracle? Take some time to prayerfully observe the passage. What do you notice? What is happening?

2. What else is going on? Look back at the preceding verses in Luke 5. We have just learned that Jesus is calling His disciples and that He is able to cleanse us and give us new job assignments in His Kingdom. **Read Luke 5:12-16.**

a. How are the people responding to Jesus?

b. What do we learn about Jesus from this miracle of healing the man with leprosy?

3. Why is what is happening in this passage considered miraculous?

a. From the crowd's viewpoint, which miracle is the greater?

b. From the Pharisees' and scribes' perspective, which miracle is greater?

c. What does Jesus say is the greater miracle of the two?

BIBLE DICTIONARY:

Scribe (verse 21) - high officials, advisors to the chief priests and teachers of the Law

Pharisee (verse 21) - religious leaders who took obeying the Law and additional rules extremely seriously

Blasphemy (verse 21) - here, claiming authority that belonged only to God

Son of Man (verse 24) - an all-powerful human ruler (Daniel 7:13-14). Jesus' favorite term for Himself

4. No healing in Jesus' ministry makes a direct connection between a person's physical illness and his or her sin. Jesus wants His disciples to know more about Him by this demonstration of His power.

a. **Genesis 3:3, Romans 8:20-24.** What do we learn about sin and death in these verses?

b. **Psalm 32:1-4.** What connection does this psalm make between sin and its physical impact?

GETTING PERSONAL:

Illness and chronic disease touch our lives in one way or another. In your experience with physical suffering, how do you deal with the mysterious connection between our personal sins and the diseases and physical illness that God may assign to us? How do you pray about it?

5. What is unexpected in the way that Jesus reacts to the瘫痪 (paralytic) and his four friends?

6. When Jesus pronounces that the man's sins were forgiven, He perceives that the scribes and Pharisees are not happy. In fact, Jesus calls these questioning thoughts "evil" in Matthew 9:4. **Read again Luke 5:24.**

a. What does Jesus clearly say His purpose is?

b. How does He prove it to the scribes and Pharisees?

7. What was the former paralytic's and the crowd's reaction to what they heard and saw in that home that day?

GETTING PERSONAL:

At the Word of Jesus, this man's sins were forgiven, the greatest miracle any human being can experience and one that only God can do for us. What difference does it make in the way you live out your day today to know that your greatest need—forgiveness of your sins—has been taken care of by Jesus?

EXPLORE MORE:

A. The phrase “power of the Lord” in verse 17 of chapter 5 is synonymous with the *Spirit* of the Lord. By the time this incident takes place, Jesus has been conceived by the Spirit, anointed by the Spirit, and led by the Spirit in His confrontation with the devil in the wilderness. **Read Luke 4:16-21.** In this inaugural sermon in the synagogue as He proclaims His mission statement, Jesus self-identifies as One who will carry out that mission in the power or Spirit of God. What are some of the ways Jesus’ work in His encounter with the paralytic are a pictorial of the redemptive activity He had claimed as His own in His reading in the synagogue?

B. In addition to the power of Jesus to carry out the work of His mission, the narrative focuses on the *authority* of Jesus, the full authorization and prerogative of God to implement the plan of God. “Son of Man” is a frequent self-designation Jesus uses to speak about *His* agency in the redemptive plan. The context in which Jesus uses it each time determines whether He is alluding to authority, suffering, etc. **Read Daniel 7:13-14**, a description of a vision of the prophet Daniel with which the Pharisees and scribes would have been familiar. By alluding to Daniel’s prophecy with this self-reference, what audacious claims would Jesus be adding to what He has already made to the religious leaders?

C. What are some of the ways the extraordinary claims of Jesus about Himself bring you comfort today in the midst of all that is swirling around you?