

Luke 5:17-26 (ESV)

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."

In this passage Jesus is showing us His divinity. He knew that only God could forgive sin, but in this moment, He was saying that He was God. Jesus knew that the Pharisees and the scribes would question His authority. He knew that they would call Him a blasphemer. Jesus also knew that the man couldn't be truly healed until his sins were forgiven. That's why He said, "your sins are forgiven." Far too often we are focused on the external while Jesus is focused more on the heart.

As we look at this passage of scripture we are challenged in a couple of ways. First, we are challenged to love people in the way that these friends loved their friend. They were willing to do whatever it took to get their hurting friend to Jesus. Are we willing to do the same? The second way that we are challenged is to look at our problems the way Jesus would. We need to see our sin as a greater issue with God than our daily problems. God cares about both, but His greater issue is with our sin.

FAMILY TABLE TALK QUESTIONS

1. Which miracle is greater, the healing of the man or the forgiveness of his sin?
2. How do our problems in life compare to the problem of our sin?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray that God will shed light on the areas of your life that are sinful.
- Spend some time confessing your sin before God and asking Him to forgive you.
- Pray that God will put people in your life who need to know God's forgiveness, and pray that you will have the boldness to share with them how they can experience the forgiveness of God.