

**Luke 5:20-24 (ESV)**

**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 story of miraculous healing, we see Jesus reframing a picture for the scribes and Pharisees as well as for us today. The paralytic certainly would love to have his strength and mobility restored, but Jesus saw past his physical condition to the man's biggest true need, the forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God. In this historical account, Jesus makes it clear that healing the man's physical struggle was to show His authority to solve the true need of all humanity.

Throughout our lives we see so much in the world involving pain and sorrow. There is so much that we long to be eradicated from in this broken world. We long for a place and a time where sickness, heartbreak, malice, and struggle do not exist. Ultimately our longing is not for the eradication of pain. John is told from the throne of Heaven in Revelation 21:3-4 “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” The death and resurrection of Jesus are not purposed just to “fix our problems” and take the pain away from our lives. They are purposed with cleansing us from our sin and reconciling us to our God. The great reality of dwelling with God is that in His presence there is no sin or the effects of sin.

**FAMILY TABLE TALK QUESTION**

Do we desire to be with God more than we hope to simply live without problems?

**PRAYER FOCUS**

- Pray that God will grow your desire to be with Him.
- Repent of sin in your life trusting and knowing that forgiveness is freely offered.