

03202022 Faith in Jesus

Today's study of Luke...reveals a turning point in Jesus' ministry. Up to this point, the healings were merely physical. Now we see publicly publicly self identify as the Messiah... ..there is a much greater healing needed than just the physical...for every physical healing will fail at some time in the future...But Faith in who Jesus is will never fail!! Because he brings ultimate healing – God's complete and forever forgiveness of our sins...resulting in a healed relationship with God...and life eternal with him and the ultimate resurrection of our bodies...

Luke tells us when this happened...Jesus has continued on from the leper healing and traveling to other villages, and because of the Lepers partial obedience all the religious leaders are now checking Jesus out ...

*LK 5:17 One day while Jesus was teaching, some **Pharisees** and **teachers of religious law** were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem..)...*

Mark recounts where this took place.

*MK 2: 1 When Jesus returned to **Capernaum** several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. ² Soon the house where he was staying was **so packed with visitors** that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them,*

- **As Jesus is teaching within the house most likely Peter's home...**
- **The home is packed with people and the religious Leaders...**

“The Pharisees were a non-priestly or lay separatist movement whose goal was to keep the nation faithful to Mosaic faith. In order to do this, they had a very developed tradition that gave rulings on how the law applied to every possible situation and Jesus kept violating those rules. That is why there was so much conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees.

The teachers of the Law...were commonly called scribes...or the scribes of the Pharisees... the scribes were learned teachers and copyist, transcribers of the law Torah and authoritative leaders, they were drawn from the priests and Levites, as well as the common people.

They watched what people said especially religious leaders and reported back to the Pharisees...the religious fundamentalist of the day...

These religious leaders of Jesus' day had made religious service complicated. Jesus dramatically simplified the mission of the church. The religious took 10 commandments and added 613 amendments to them, calling it the law... Where as Jesus reduced the ten to two... He did not abolish the law but captured the spirit of the law in three statements...love God love yourselves love others

There is the great commandment...

MT 22: 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[1] *40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."*

- **So These Religious leaders were checking Jesus out to see if he was one of them a peer...if he was saying the right things according to them and doing the right things according to them.**

So As Jesus is teaching within a house, there comes down the street four men. They are carrying a sturdy pallet on which they have secured a friend.

Luke 5:17B... And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus.

18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, 19 but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

- **There comes down the street four men. They are carrying a sturdy pallet on which they have secured a friend.**

- **These five men were desperate... they were not going to miss Him this time... For Who knows how long Jesus will be around this time...remember he left without healing everyone before..**
- **Their excitement mounts as they move through the city streets and approach the house where Jesus is. But their anticipation is crushed as they reach the house and find people packed everywhere straining to hear Jesus and can't get in the door..**
- **And apparently one was willing to move and let them in...**
- **One of them must of come up with the Roof idea ...lets destroy a portion of someone's home to help their buddy...**
- **It was not customary in that day to do what they did any more than it would be an acceptable action today. The acceptable thing would have been for them to wait outside until the crowd dispersed.**
- **The first thing that would entail was to carry him up an outside stairway to the roof. It is not easy to carry a litter up narrow stairs. It is a difficult task in itself... Yet these men did not quit.**
- **Then they would have to obtain tools to pull up flat roof tiles...which also served as the floor. And no one stopped them ...they must have been imposing hombres...**
- **Imagine the surprise of those within the house. They are sitting and standing wall-to-wall to hear Jesus. He has been speaking to them of sin and repentance and the kingdom of God.**
- **Suddenly, there is a noise above their heads and a portion of the ceiling is removed. They look up to see several faces staring back down. The hole in the ceiling widens and then, a pallet is lowered to the floor. On it lies a man. He may not even have been able to speak. We are not told that he made any request. He has only been placed at the feet of Jesus.**
- **As This was Peter's house I wonder how he was feeling...**

Right now I want us to stop and look at a few important facts... Faith is work

- **The paralyzed man could not even go to Jesus without help.** His Friends Faith worked on his behalf. Bringing someone to Jesus is an act of prayer, an act of love, an act of service based on faith. They were the bearer of the bed. You and I have been commissioned to bring other helpless people to Jesus.
- It isn't easy to bring someone to Jesus. In fact, it is often difficult. And often it is a process...they knew the man...they had helped him before...they cared for this guy.... They heard there might be a solution from Jesus....They carried him, who knows how far.. to meet Jesus ...
- Jesus seeing all that they did...responds...
²⁰ *Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."*
- **The remarkable thing is that Jesus never rebuked them, either for their interruption of His teaching or for the damage to the roof. He seems to have approved of their extreme methods.**
- Then addresses the man's relationship to God...and tells him it is healed ... because his sins are forgiven...
- **It appears that the man's paralysis resulted from personal sin. Jesus recognized that the man's greatest need was spiritual and not physical.**
- **Jesus' first act was to forgive the man, not to heal him. That seems backwards. To us the most important thing about this man is that he could not walk.**
- We should ask if the paralytic's greatest need was for forgiveness or for the ability to walk. If all we have is this life, then walking is more important than forgiveness. If we believe that we have a future beyond the grave that is governed by our relationship with God, then forgiveness is more important than walking.

LK 5:21 ²¹ But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law **said to themselves**, “Who does he think he is? That’s blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!”

*****Jesus knew what they were thinking....and that fact alone should have blown their minds... he knew what they were thinking...**

So Jesus in telling the man he is forgiven...is taking publicly his first steps toward the cross...for that is the cost of forgiving sin...death...by giving ammunition to the religious leaders to use against him.... they were checking to see if he was one of them, or possibly a prophet, or a political messiah... their main question was who is he...yet by his words he claims to be of the same essence as God. **For Only God can forgive sins. They think this is blasphemy.**

*******So Jesus responds...verbally to their thoughts**

²³ **Is it easier to say** ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up and walk’?

- **Is this a trick question? Of course it is easier to say your sins are forgiven than to say Get up take up your mat and walk because no one can tell if forgiveness happened or not. You can’t validate it. Its Invisible**
- **But is it really?** I have known many who have been healed of addictions, and all kinds of emotional stuff...but still cannot forgive people who have done them wrong...still carry around bitterness and resentment poisoning themselves and all those around them with their unforgiveness...they really are not free...nor truly healed though outwardly they look like it..
- **We don’t necessarily know the cost of forgiveness...it is not free...**
- **So in truth forgiveness is much harder to do...as it will cost him his life to accomplish... and today is the first step toward**

that...Now Jesus could heal with no life threatening cost to Himself

▪ **And so he tells them His answer ...**

Luke 5:24 So I will prove to you that the *Son of Man* has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!”

He first tells them his identity...The term Son of Man...comes from Daniel and is used for the divine one who will rule forever...

DA 7:13 As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a *son of man* coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

- **It is end times in scope...but Jesus makes the point that the one who will come in the clouds is present here now...his dominion is an everlasting one...always was and always will be..**
- **This is what he wants you to be part of and rest in...**
- **As Proof, Jesus turns to the paralytic carried by others on seeing *their* faith. And His overt claim that He is God**
- **Confirms His message through an activity. So that you know that what I’m saying is true (your sins are forgiven, (I.e. I’m God), I will perform a miracle.**

²⁵ And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God.

- **Heck yeah! His life changed spiritually and Physically...He went home a different man...now he must learn to live differently!**
- **So Jesus in telling the man he is forgiven...is taking publicly his first steps toward the cross...for that is the cost of forgiving sin...death...by giving ammunition to the religious**

Everyone else...

²⁶ Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

All the people Experienced something new themselves...This man claims to be the son of Man...and heals.... to see a miracle doesn't mean you believe in the one who can do miracles. Verse 26 says they were all amazed...but does not say they all believed.

- **Peter has a roof to repair!**

I want to go back to one statement Jesus made in verse 20

*²⁰ **Seeing their faith**.....*

He sees faith ... Don't think your prayers or faith failed because God did not heal as you asked. Actually, the opposite may be the truth. It may be that when you persevere when your prayers are not answered the way you want requires greater faith in God and because then you must have faith in his sufficiency and grace.

This is the case with the men and women in the [Hebrews 11](#) "Hall of Faith."

ESV Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Their stories are told to show us that mature faith perseveres in trusting in God, even when we have not yet received what we long for. Many in here are modern-day Hall of Faith.

If you're waiting on God for healing personally or for a loved one, the Lord does not want you to give up or feel inadequate. He is pleased with your persevering trust.

Healings happen and healings do not happen...but forgiveness is always available...grace to carry on is always available He is most concerned with you finding you life in him...for that is real life...so he will take us deeper than what we ask for...so that we may find him as our source and our fulfillment... **END**

- **The only way that we can even come to Jesus is in a state of complete helplessness. Some come themselves, some must be brought. Either way come...**