

I. Hope Demonstrated - Luke 5:17-19

1. As He was teaching (**verse 17**)
 - no specific day is related
2. Pharisees and teachers of the law - doctors
 - out of every town in Judea
3. He was healing (**verses 17-18**)
 - A. Someone was brought to be healed
 - B. A palsy
 - C. Brought on a bed - stretcher
4. The group bringing the sick man met an obstacle at the door - the crowd (**verse 19**)
5. He is taken to the rooftop to be let in
 - A. Roofs were removable - tiling and plaster
 - B. The stretcher was lowered and set before Jesus
6. They persisted - because they had hope that Jesus would heal

Rea

-love for the person on the stretcher - enough to tear up the roof

Rea

Ideas and Questions:

1. Why do you think the crowd did not part to let in this group to Jesus?
2. That's a lot of work
3. They believed - enough to do all this - do you believe that much?
 - or, maybe they were just desperate
4. There's always an obstacle or a wall between us and God's work... has to be removed
5. In agreement with our writer, I believe they demonstrated their hope - hope does something, so if you're not doing something it testifies to your lack of hope. If you hope to serve and honor God you WILL BE in church.

II. Forgiveness Granted - Luke 5:20-24

1. When he saw their faith (**verse 20**)
2. Forgiveness and healing are linked here and at James 5:15

Rea

-the "sin" thing is addressed before the "healing" thing

3. The scribes and Pharisees began to question Jesus' authority to forgive sins (**verse 21**)
 - to them this was "blasphemy"

Rea

-in our world often a priest will claim to have authority to forgive sins - discuss

4. Jesus' accusations of blasphemy:
 - equality with God as His son - John 10:30-33
 - confessed He was Messiah - Mark 14:61-64

Rea

5. Surely God alone can forgive sins - but this meant they did not understand who Jesus was

6. He knows what they are thinking (**verse 22**)
 - so He replies

7. Jesus contrasts and compares forgiveness of sins with the miracle of raising this man (**verse 23**)

Rea

-in their minds the raising of the paralyzed man was greater

8. So that you may know that the Son of Man has power to forgive sins (verse 24)

Rea -so, the motive for this healing is to bear witness to something greater than a physical healing
-this is undisputable evidence
-authority to forgive sins “on earth”

9. I say to you arise

-take up your bed

-go to your house

10. The greater need is forgiveness

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Discuss how not all who are sick are that way because they have sinned

-but some are

2. At the Great Commission the Bible teaches that Jesus had “all authority” - that did not just happen when He was raised, but it was declared repeatedly in gospel stories

-authority over the wind and waves, authority over demons and Satan, authority over Sabbath laws... etc

3. Their reasoning seems sound from one perspective - discuss how easy it is to get our thinking off track - we can rationalize almost anything. It happens in Washington almost every day.

III. Praise Offered - Luke 5:25-26

1. Immediately he obeyed (**verse 25**)

-going to his house is obeying

2. He left glorifying God

Rea -how often do you think this man prayed for his own healing?

3. Reaction of the crowd (**verse 26**)

A. Amazed

B. Filled with fear - awe

C. This is “strange”

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. So what is the bottom line of this story? What are we supposed to “take away?”

2. After a miracle there is very often a statement of their response

-we are to put the gospel “out there” - and then people have to make a “response”

3. It is a terrible burden to need forgiving and not to have it...

-so this man left glorifying God also for his forgiveness

4. Do we need forgiveness?

-does it sometimes cause us to be “lame?”

5. My opinion, there is nothing wrong with the local church that a good thorough-going revival wouldn't solve. The problem is that we are “saved” so we don't think we need forgiveness.