

**Series "Knowing The Exact Truth"**  
**"The Greatest Miracle Of All"**  
**Luke 5:17-26**  
**Study-17**

This Miracle/Discourse is recorded in all 3 of the Synoptic Gospels:  
**Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26**

This Miracle has been called by some **"The Greatest Miracle of All"**  
**"Forgiveness Is Man's Deepest Need And God's Highest Achievement."**

Jesus has contended with **Sickness**, with **Satan**, **Nature** and now the **Religious Leaders** over **The Forgiveness Of Sin. Luke 5:21**

**The Paralytic Is The First Encounter With The Religious Leaders.** Luke now records 5 encounters with the religious leaders,  
**(Luke 5:17-26; 27-32; 33-39; 6:1-5; 6-11)**

**A Basic Threefold Pattern Develops:**

- (1) Jesus Performs a Controversial Action**
- (2) Religious Leaders Protest His Actions**
- (3) Jesus Silences His Critics With A Pronouncement Statement**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "All Of Mankind Suffers From The Paralysis Of Sin, But Only Jesus The Son Of Man Can Forgive Sins."

- 1. Verses 17-20 His Controversial Action**
- 2. Verse 21 Protesting His Action**
- 3. Verses 22-26 Silencing His Critics**

**1. Verses 17-20 His Controversial Action**

**Luke 5:17 One day** - Luke left off with Jesus cleansing a leper and news about Him is spreading. Then we left off with these words: **Luke 5:16**

**One day** - When was this? It was not a Sabbath or Luke would have said it was; it was a weekday. Jesus is teaching and getting the Word out!  
Where was this? **Mark 2:1-3**

**Capernaum** – Base of operations of His Galilean ministry.

**He was teaching;** We see over and over again that Jesus' entire ministry was built on teaching or instruction.

**and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem;**  
**Why were they there? Luke 5:14-15**

**Pharisees** - *"to separate" non-priests, Separatists.* They believed in separation from all that was unclean, including all sinful people. Oral law and traditions were *made up of thousands of rules.* The purpose was to *"Build a fence around the Torah."*

**teachers of the law (Scribes, 5:21)** Often called **"Lawyers"**

They recorded and made copies of the Scriptures. They were learned in the Mosaic law and in the sacred writings; an interpreter, teacher. They were so familiar with the Scriptures that they became known as *"The experts of the law."*

**and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing.**

What does that mean? It is Luke's way of saying That God was going to do a great miracle!

**Mark 2:2 there was no longer room, even near the door;**

**Luke 5:18 And some men**

**Mark 2:3 carried by four men.**

**were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed;**

The miracles of Jesus were parables. They were not just healings of disease; they were given to teach spiritual lessons.

**paralyzed; paralytic** - *"without strength"* symbolizes the spiritual outcome of sin. Sin paralyzes us, and keeps us from moving, walking, and living. **Romans 5:6**

**I want to note 5 practical lessons from these stretcher-bearers!**

**1. True Faith Compelled Them To Bring Their Friend To Jesus:  
were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were  
trying to bring him in, and to set him down in front of Him.  
Matthew 11:28**

**2. True Faith Believes Jesus Can Meet the Need:  
and to set him down in front of Him.**

These men's faith was in Jesus! **Hebrews 11:6**

**We need to believe that Jesus is the only one who can cure the  
paralyzed world. Acts 4:12**

**Luke 5:19**

**3. True Faith Is Not Disheartened By Difficult Circumstances:  
But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd,  
These men's faith was in Jesus! Galatians 6:9**

## 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

### 4. True Faith Is Creative - Not Afraid To Try Something New: they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher,

*Mark's gospel is the most detailed. The information came from Peter.*

Roofs were flat, there were beams that ran across the roof, then running the opposite direction were cross beams of timber, sticks reeds that were then laid down, then on top of that was about a foot of earth (2 feet thick total). (In some cases, crops were grown on the roof.) There was a stairway.

**When we believe that Jesus is the only way, we will do radical things to get people to Him.**

**Luke 5:20 Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you."**

### 5. True Faith Has Feet: Seeing their faith, (Results Of Faith) (Faith of the paralytic and the 4 men) something that can be seen. It is practical, it sprouts legs.

**He said, "Friend,** notice from just a man to a friend. There has been a change in the relationship. The paralytic could not receive forgiveness apart from faith - **Hebrews 11:6**

**your sins are forgiven."** **Jesus Start's With The Man's Greatest Need: Forgiveness** - Greatest miracle, greatest need, Zachariah said, **Luke 1:77**

**your sins are forgiven you." (Sin Must Be Dealt With By The Sinner Himself)** All sickness is a result of sin (Adam). Some sickness is a result or judgment because of sin.  
**1 Corinthians 11:30**

**The Jews linked sickness and sin together. John 9:1-3**

## 2. Verse 21 Protesting His Action

**Luke 5:21**The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, (We Must), but to do it apart from God will prove to be a disaster.

**saying, "Who is this man (Root Error - Jesus Is Just A Man) who speaks blasphemies? "reproachful speech injurious to the divine majesty" Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" (Jesus is claiming deity)**

### **3. Verses 22-26 Silencing His Critics**

**Luke 5:22 But Jesus, aware of their reasonings,**

This is an Attribute of God - The Omniscience Of God: *meaning, "God knows everything, things actual and possible, effortlessly and equally well"* **Hebrews 4:13**

**Luke 5:23 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?"**

The easiest statement to say is that your sins are forgiven, because how can you verify that it has taken place or not?

**Luke 5:24 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man**

The term **Son of Man** - is used **26 times** in **Luke**, **58 times** in the other Gospels. It is a Messianic title. **Daniel 7:13-14**

**has authority on earth to forgive sins,"**— Proof of His deity, authority to forgive, healing! (Do you believe Jesus alone can forgive your sins?)

**"I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home."**

Forgiven and was now a changed man. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

**Luke 5:25 Immediately he got up before them,**

How long has this man been paralyzed?

**The Walk Of Liberation From Jesus:**

**and went home glorifying God.**

**(Only Luke Records this reaction) John 4:14**

**Luke 5:26 They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God;**

Crowds were out of their minds from observing Jesus' God deity.

**and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today." "We have seen beyond expectation"**

**Application: Luke 5:25** *There are 3 Ways To Go Home Today:*

- 1. We Can Go Home Like This Former Paralytic:** Being Forgiven And Set Free From The Paralysis Of Sin.
- 2. We Can Go Home Like The Onlookers:** Amazed, Giving The Glory To God But At the Same Time Not Necessarily Changed.
- 3. We Can Go Home Like The Religious:** Both Hard And Unchanged. We Can Stiffen Our Necks, And Continue On Our Own Way Apart From God.