

JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN

(Luke 5:17–26)

FOCUS

You look at your best friend. You can tell that something is terribly wrong. Her face reveals pain and anxiety. She's just returned from the doctor. The diagnosis was bad—she has a deadly disease. You listen to her, pray with her, and promise to do everything you can to help. As she leaves, you can't help wondering if there's anything you can do that will help her.

1. What would you do to help a close friend or family member who faced a diagnosis like this?
2. How would you feel if your efforts were directly responsible for the cure?

INFORM

Read Luke 5:17.

1. Luke tells us that many people had come to see Jesus on this day. Who was in the crowd? What did they want?

Read Luke 5:18–20.

2. One person could not get in to see Jesus. His friends carried him, but it was still impossible for him to gain entrance into the house. How did they finally get the man before Jesus? How do you think the crowd reacted to this?

3. What did Jesus first do for the paralyzed man? How do you think the man reacted to what Jesus did?

Read Luke 5:21–23.

4. The paralyzed man wasn't the only one who was surprised. Who else was surprised by what Jesus did? What did they think was wrong?

5. Why did the Pharisees think it was blasphemous for Jesus to forgive sins? See also Leviticus 6:6–7 and Hebrews 9:22.

6. The Pharisees thought that Jesus was wrong, but they didn't speak their objections. How did Jesus know what they thought? What does this tell us about Him?

Read Luke 5:24–26.

7. Jesus answers the Pharisees' objections. How does Jesus demonstrate that He has the authority to forgive sins? What is the result of this proof?

8. How did people react to this miracle?

Connect

1. This formerly paralyzed man had many blessings. Not only had Jesus healed him but he also had wonderful friends who went to great lengths to help him. How did they help him? What can we learn from them?

2. This Scripture reading is usually referred to as the healing of a paralyzed man. This is true, but incomplete. Jesus does a number of miracles in this passage. What are they? Do we experience any of these miracles?

3. The crowds of people gathered around Jesus saw amazing things that day. They joined the healed man in praising and glorifying God for what they had seen and experienced. What do they teach us?

Vision

The paralyzed man's friends were determined. Nothing would keep them from accomplishing their goal—presenting this needy man to Jesus. The Lord exceeded their expectations. He healed their friend in both body and soul.

1. Who do you know that needs to be brought into the presence of Jesus? How can He help them?

2. We aren't only like the paralyzed man's friends, though. We're also like the man who was healed. Having received Christ's healing, he left, praising God. In his joy, he must have told other people what had happened. What miracles of God can we tell others?