**THE MAN WITH THE PALSY**

***Going Through the Roof***

***Luke 5:17-26***

Sunday School Lesson 6

*The Miracles of Jesus*

02/17/2019

**Introduction:** As we move forward to the next miracle in the ministry of Jesus, we will see the direct impact that the healing of the leper had on Jesus’ work. The crowds that followed Jesus were growing larger and larger each day. As He had done several times before, Jesus withdrew Himself into the wilderness for a time of prayer. This offered Him a time of quietness as He communicated with His Father. After concluding this prayer time, He again came and entered into the city of Capernaum. It did not take long for word to spread that Jesus was back in town, and the people quickly gathered outside the house that He was in. Being always willing to help the people, Jesus opened the home for them to come in, and He began to preach to the people. Men from all walks of life and all areas of the surrounding country came to hear Him. There were Pharisees, scribes, doctors, and common people all there together to hear Him. One of the people there was a man that was sick with the palsy (commonly known as being paralyzed). His four friends had carried him in his bed with the hopes of presenting him to Jesus for healing. Although the crowd made it difficult to get to Jesus, the friends were not deterred. They carried the man to the roof and literally ripped through the roof in order to gain access to Jesus. The healing of the paralyzed man was only made possible through their determination. As we look at this miracle, we will examine some of the different characters involved and the role that each one played in the event.

1. THE FRIENDS OF THE PARALYZED MAN SHOWED THEIR FAITH THROUGH THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR ACTION. (LUKE 5:18-20)
2. **Notice that there was never a hesitation to determine whether the work was worth the risk (Luke 5:18-19).** If there was any doubt whether Jesus had the power to heal, the men would have undoubtedly taken time to assess whether climbing on a roof was worth the risk. It would not have been easy to carry a man on his bed up to a roof. Additionally, it would have posed great risk of personal injury. Yet, the Bible does not show us any hesitation. When the men could not reach the door, they immediately went to the roof to lower him down. While the Bible does not mention a cost for the roof, we can safely assume that there was an expense that needed to be paid to repair the roof that they had ripped open. Again, the men did not pause to consider this. They just knew that they needed to get the paralyzed man to Jesus. If Christians are hesitant to do the work of God, it is a reflection of either a lack of faith or a lack of concern. If we believe that the power of God can truly change lives, then there is really no alternative reason that can be provided to justify our behavior if we are not working.
3. **Notice that Jesus offered healing to the man when He saw THEIR faith (Luke 5:20).** It was not the faith of the paralyzed man that caused Jesus to offer healing to the man. Instead, it was the faith of his friends. Now, we will see later in the lesson that it was the man’s faith that caused him to receive the healing, but the offer was made because his friends, in faith, brought him to the Saviour. This is a great picture for us of how salvation works. Our faith cannot save anyone else. As Christians, we truly wish that it could, but we know that it is a personal decision. However, we should understand that our faith is how the world hears about the offer of salvation. Jesus has made the offer of salvation available to the entire world, but the world needs people of faith to bring them to the knowledge of that offer. They are paralyzed in their sin. They need to be carried to the place of salvation. Once we get them there, it is then their choice to receive it. We often think of how great it would be if more people in this world put their faith in Jesus, but how great would it be if the people “of faith” actually exercised that faith to bring others to Christ!
4. THE FOES OF THE PARALYZED MAN SHOWED THEIR FOOLISHNESS THROUGH THE DEBATE OVER JESUS’ ANNOUNCEMENT. (LUKE 5:21, 26)
5. **Notice that their first reaction was one of contempt instead of admiration (Luke 5:21).** When Jesus saw the paralyzed man, He told him that his sins were forgiven. The Pharisees and scribes were immediately taken aback by this statement. They reasoned within themselves that Jesus had just blasphemed against God because only God can forgive sin. These Pharisees had travelled from all over the region to see Jesus, yet they were quick to find fault in Him. Were they not listening to what He had been saying about who He was? What is also interesting is that the Pharisees viewed sickness as punishment from God for a person’s sin. Based on this belief system, wouldn’t they have had to view a person’s healing by the hand of Jesus as forgiveness from God for that person’s sin? Their own reasoning was a contradiction against itself. This just reinforces the foolishness of man’s wisdom.
6. **Notice that their second reaction was one of amazement but also confusion (Luke 5:26).** Their first reaction was an internal reaction. The Bible tells us that these were just their thoughts, so there was nothing audible actually said among them. Jesus, however, responded to these thoughts. What better validation could He have given to them that He was the Son of God than to read and respond to their very thoughts? When the paralyzed man got up and walked away, they had no choice but to be amazed at what had taken place. Jesus had healed this troubled man, and He had also read their thoughts! The Bible tells us that they were also afraid and bewildered by what had happened. Part of that bewilderment and amazement was probably directed at how the friends of the paralyzed man had gone to such great lengths to have the man healed. The other part of their bewilderment was over what Jesus had told them. The idea of God coming down in the form of a man must have seemed strange to them. It made them afraid. Unfortunately, the majority of the Pharisees would stay afraid and confused. Jesus did not want them to be confused, but until they were willing to put down their own understanding, they would not be able to grasp Who Jesus was.
7. THE INITIAL FAILURE OF THE PARALYZED MAN SHOWED THAT A BETTER FUTURE WAS NOT DECIDED UNTIL HE ACTED. (LUKE 5:20, 24-25)
8. **Notice that the man did not get up when Jesus first spoke to Him (Luke 5:20).** This little bit of the story might get missed if you are not paying attention. The man was not actually healed when Jesus spoke the words to him that his sins were forgiven, yet that was exactly what Jesus was offering when He spoke those words. In other words, the man did not receive healing when Jesus first offered it to him. He continued to lie there in the bed. Why did this happen? The man either did not believe, did not want to identify as a person with sin, or he simply did not understand what Jesus was saying. Those are really the only three possibilities to explain why he was still there. It is clear that the man could have gotten up and walked away after Jesus spoke those words. Perhaps, he questioned the words of Jesus just like the Pharisees. Perhaps, he did not have faith like his friends who had carried him there to Jesus. Whatever the reason, this reinforces that every person has a choice to make when it comes to their faith in Christ.
9. **Notice that the man immediately got up when Jesus spoke to him the second time (Luke 5:24-25).** After Jesus’ concluded His charge to the Pharisees, He told the paralyzed man to stand up, take his bed, and go to his house. Immediately, the man stood up and departed to his home. This time, the man did not waste any time responding to the offer from the Lord. What changed from the first time to the second time? We do not know for sure. He may have believed when he saw the authority that Jesus had, even over the Pharisees. If he was initially confused by the first command, the blunter command that Jesus gave may have assured him of what he was hoping that Jesus was saying. While there is no way to know for certain what change took place, we know that the change was not in Jesus’ power. It was also not in Jesus’ willingness. The change certainly took place within the heart of the man. Thankfully, he did not waste the effort that his friends had put into him. He went home and glorified God for the change that had been made.
10. THE FORGIVER OF THE PARALYZED MAN SHOWED HIS FOLLOWERS THAT THEIR DEVOTION REQUIRED AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. (LUKE 5:23-24)
11. **Notice Jesus’ intentionally used these words in order to get a response from the people there (Luke 5:24).** Jesus first explained that there was nothing different that He was doing in healing this man than what He had done in healing anyone else. The words were interchangeable. Why did Jesus choose to use these words, then? He told them in verse 24 that He spoke these words so that they would understand that He had power to forgive sin. He wanted them to grasp that He wasn’t just there to offer physical healing. If that were the case, why would anyone that had good health even be concerned with the ministry of Jesus? He knew that these words would challenge them to see Him as more than just a teacher or a prophet.
12. **Notice that their devotion was wasted if they did not understand and acknowledge that He was the Son of God (Luke 5:24).** What good was it if Jesus had all of these followers that did not understand who He was or what His purpose was? These people were devoted people. Otherwise, they would not have taken the time to travel great distances to hear Him speak and see His work. The problem, though, is that the devoted religious leaders in Israel had led the people into spiritual darkness. Their devotion was not fruitful because it was misplaced. The Lord does not just want our devotion. He wants us to understand who it is that we are devoted to and what is it that we are supposed to be devoted to doing.

**Conclusion:** If we were to place ourselves in this story, which role would we most likely be in? Would we be the people that spend more time debating and dismissing things instead of having faith? Would we be a part of the silent crowd that just sits on the sideline watching? Would we be the one who has to be prodded again by Christ in order for us to show faith? Hopefully, we can identify with the friends who had a determined and passionate faith in Christ.