



The Paralyzed Man
Luke 5:17-36
April 10th - 16th, 2016

Warm Up: Imagine sitting down with Jesus in the flesh. What would you talk about? Where would He direct the conversation? What words of encouragement or challenge might he bring to you personally, knowing your very thoughts before you think them? In this new series, we will see that Jesus never took a “*one size fits all*” approach with human hearts. He dealt differently with different people depending on each person’s particular need. Begin by sharing how this truth impacts you. What does it say about Jesus, and, subsequently about our ministry as well?

- ❖ Read **Luke 5:17-26** aloud. In this encounter we see the dynamic faith of four friends put on display.
 - What do you find most interesting or surprising about this encounter?
 - Jesus could have simply healed the man and sent him home, but instead, He used the opportunity to teach a lesson about sin and forgiveness. What was this lesson?
- ❖ The paralyzed man’s encounter with Jesus speaks to those who are *stalled, stuck, or stymied*. The key which unlocks any “stuck” spiritual life is faith. Listen to what Jesus said to different people: “Your *faith* has saved you; go in peace.” (**Luke 7:50**). “Daughter, he said to her, ‘your *faith* has made you well. Go in peace.’” (**8:48**). “Stand up and go. Your *faith* has healed you.” (**17:19**). “All right, receive your sight! Your *faith* has healed you.” (**18:42**)
 - In what ways do you feel most stalled, stuck, or stymied in your spiritual life right now? Explain.
 - In what ways do you sense Jesus is asking you to trust Him in this time?
 - What role do you believe faith needs to take in your journey?
- ❖ The four friends model at least 3 aspects of faith for us. Faith **WORKS**. The men expended great effort to help their paralyzed friend. It was an active and hard working expression of faith. Faith also **PERSEVERES**. The friends didn’t let personal inconvenience stop them. They kept going even though it was challenging. Lastly, faith **SUCCEEDS**. Their faith was rewarded and the man’s sins were forgiven, with his body being fully restored.
 - Which of these 3 aspects of faith is the Lord challenging you to press into today? Why?

Wrap Up: In closing, share with one other person in your group the thing which is requiring the most faith in your life. Pray for each other with hearts full of the faith that God supplies! (**Romans 12:3; James 1:5-8**)