

**Luke 5:17-26****2-19-06****“Forgiven!”****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Presidents Day** – When George Washington was leaving home to begin, what would become his lifelong service for his country, he recorded the parting words of his mother, Mrs. Mary Washington: *“Remember that **God** is our only **sure trust**. To Him, I commend you...my son, neglect not the duty of **secret prayer**.”*<sup>1</sup>
  - 1.1.1. Pray: President Bush.
- 1.2. Many healings so far, & lastly a **leper** was made **spot free!**
  - 1.2.1. As ministry cranked up, Jesus made more time to be alone with His Father! (vs.16) – **Too busy not to pray!**
- 1.3. **OUTLINE: Hindered By Many; Carried By Four; Lifted By One!**
- 1.4. **Intro Story** – As a young lad I remember running into our back bathroom next to our kitchen to wash my hands. I would turn on the water & do a *“hand drive by”*. I could skip my palm across the soap (so I could say I used it) & through the water & hit the towel in breakneck speed.
  - 1.4.1. This one evening I think I went too quick! - My dad asked, “did you wash”, I said yes, & he checked! (he’s never checked) [mom must have tipped him off] Any ways, he marched me in & showed me this scrubber (I thought it was for the tile) – when I got done with that scrub **“I KNEW I WAS CLEAN!**
  - 1.4.2. As a youth I went to a priest for forgiveness. I said what ever prayers I was given. But I was never sure I was clean! (I felt a little more holy? I trusted in the system? But was I clean?)

**2. FORGIVEN! (17-26)**

- 2.1. **[1] HINDERED BY MANY!**
- 2.2. **Life on a 3x6 Matt!**
  - 2.2.1. His 1<sup>st</sup> Hindrance was his physical malady.
  - 2.2.2. **Q: Ever laid in one place for a long time & start noticing **shapes** in the **ceiling tiles**?**
  - 2.2.3. Life for him was pretty much reduced to a **horizontal** one.
    - 2.2.3.1. No convalescent hospital to be cared for; no physical therapist; no medical breakthroughs; no miracle drug; no specialist; no neurosurgeon.<sup>2</sup>
    - 2.2.3.2. Life as he knew it was a **3’x6’ prison!**

<sup>1</sup> America’s God & Country; pg.635,636

<sup>2</sup> “Incredible Moments” Ken Gire; pg.21

2.2.4. His life, in his culture & time period, could be summed up to “*dependency, humiliation, confinement, boredom, loneliness, frustration, & despair.*”...until this special day!

### 2.3. Hindered By The Crowds!

2.4. His 2<sup>nd</sup> Hindrance was the crowds.

2.4.1. They wouldn't move to let them in. “*Hello, we're busy in Bible Study for Pete's Sake!*”

2.4.2. In every crowd there seem to be **Seekers, Spectators, & Spies.**

### 2.5. Hindered By The Religious!

2.6. His 3<sup>rd</sup> Hindrance was the Religious group.

2.6.1. **Pharisees & teachers of the Law sitting by** – They could jumped up & lifted a hand! – **Here were the real paralytics!**

2.6.2. **Instead they are only concerned who is rocking the religious boat!**

### 2.7. Hindered By his own Heart!

2.8. His 4<sup>th</sup> Hindrance was the sin in his heart.

2.8.1. **Doctors estimate that 50% of all physical sickness comes from emotional & spiritual problems:** bitterness in spirit, an unforgiving spirit, holding grudges.

2.8.2. The most easily identified is probably the “**ulcer**” which are not caused by **what you are eating** *but by what is eating you!*

2.9. Maybe the problem **you** are facing today is not your wife or husband, not your boss, & not your parents. **Your problem is sin.**

2.9.1. There are times when we think that our greatest needs are for **healing, for friendship, for more money.** - **Jesus helps us focus on the real issues of life: & our 1<sup>st</sup> need is the need for forgiveness & transformed hearts.**<sup>3</sup>

2.9.2. Ps: I'm not saying this man had paralysis because of sin!!!

### 2.10. [2] CARRIED BY FOUR!

### 2.11. A Little Band Of Believers!

### 2.12. Four Men & a Brainstorm!

2.12.1. **Ok they were latecomers...but faith brought them!**

2.12.2. **They** weren't put off by the crowd of people thronging the front door. {**Honey, Calvary's parking lot's full, let's just go to IHOP!**}

2.12.3. **They** didn't use the excuse, “**it must not be the Lord!**”

2.12.4. **They** weren't put off by the crowd of people that *shooed & shushed* them away! - **They thought hmmm...“The outside stairs!!!”**

2.12.4.1. **Explain homes:** Saw a house uncovered in Chorazin(*Korazim*) “**Woe unto you Chorazin**”. Stone on top, then dirt on that.

<sup>3</sup> The Teachers Commentary; Libronix

- 2.13. Jesus **saw their faith!** - Not the paralytic's faith, but the **faithful fours fabulous faith!**
- 2.13.1. He saw their persistent, creative, & sacrificial faith!  
2.13.1.1. Body surf him over the crowd...nay!
- 2.13.2. He saw 4 sweaty men willing to put a shoulder to their faith!<sup>4</sup>  
2.13.2.1. Gal.6:2 **"Bear one another's burdens."**
- 2.13.3. They **tore up** someone's roof, **interrupted** a home bible study, & **inconvenienced** everyone else that was listening.
- 2.13.4. Jesus did say regarding his kingdom **"the violent take it by force."**  
2.13.4.1. **It's a faith that laughs at barriers!**
- 2.13.5. **But what's more important a roof, or a man?** (They weren't asking, *"Does he have homeowners insurance?"*)  
2.13.5.1. I'm sure they fixed it, & actually it would be pretty easy to do.  
2.13.5.2. Too many people are more interested in **the place, or the program, instead of the people!**
- 2.14. They didn't say *we can't preach* – they didn't need to, they "acted!"
- 2.14.1. They thought, what **CAN** we do? – We can bear his soul on our hearts! - We can get him to Jesus who we know can help! – we can remove tile! – we can hand him down!
- 2.14.2. If you can't talk (or don't know what to say), **Can you weep for their soul?**
- 2.14.3. Maybe you can't break through with **language**, but maybe you can **w/compassion!**
- 2.15. **Pastor Ray Stedman uncovered their names: Frank Faith, Harry Hope, Larry Love, & Dan Determination.**<sup>5</sup>
- 2.15.1. **Frank Faith** said, "I believe we can get this man to Jesus."  
**Harry Hope** said, "I believe there is hope for this man"  
**Larry Love** said, "I really love this guy. I hate his sin but love him."  
**Dan Determination** said, "Let's roll!"
- 2.15.2. And so we have light starting to stream in. 40 fingers digging through the roof. Dust. People coughing. Dirt particles falling on the religious leaders robes that were just back from the cleaners!
- 2.16. **Many people will never come to Jesus unless somebody brings them!**
- 2.16.1. The bible doesn't say anywhere that sinners are to **come** to church! Everywhere in the bible it's clear the church is to **go** where sinners are<sup>6</sup>
- 2.16.2. We are to be engaged in **going out** where cripples are, & **bringing them** to Jesus!

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<sup>4</sup> "Incredible Moments" Ken Gire; pg.24

<sup>5</sup> Ray Stedman; pg.40

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*; pg.38

- 2.17. The paralytic's friends provided a model for caring for shut-ins!  
 2.17.1. What are some practical ways we can **follow** their example?
- 2.17.2. Q: Do you know anyone that is bed ridden? Anyone in a convalescent home? Anyone in the hospital? Any lonely?
- 2.17.3. Take them **Communion!** Take them **Worship!** Take them **Prayer!** Take them a **Daily Bread Devotional!** Take em a **Bible Study CD!** Take them a **Worship CD!** Take them just **yourself!**
- 2.17.4. **Go to where people are!** - Go out & find someone to minister to. Prison visitation; Convalescent home; Find a need & meet it.
- 2.18. **[3] LIFTED BY ONE!**
- 2.19. It seems there is always in life: some who want to **hold you back**; some that will always **hold you up**; & Jesus to always **hold you in His Heart!**
- 2.20. It wasn't what Jesus **heard** that captured His heart it was what He **saw**  
 2.20.1. Looking up Jesus sees there 4 heads silhouetted, thinking "**These guys are good!**"
- 2.21. **Jesus Smiles:** The **Prince** meets the **Paralytic** & the face of God smiles & says, "**Be of good cheer!**"(Mt.9:2) then, "**Son, your sins are forgiven you!**"  
 2.21.1. Within that emaciated body lies a **crippled soul**, paralyzed from **sin**, atrophied from **shame**.
- 2.22. **Jesus is about to trap the trappers!** (Like **Wile E. Coyote** trying to trap the **Road Runner** in all his **ACME traps**...*he always ended up in his own trap!*)
- 2.23. **Syllogism** - argument involving **3 propositions**: it's made up of a **major premise**, a **minor premise**, and a **conclusion**. **An example is:** "all birds have feathers, penguins are birds, therefore penguins have feathers."  
 2.23.1. **They reason:** [1] Jesus claims the power to forgive sins. [2] Only God can forgive sin. [3] Therefore Jesus commits blasphemy.  
 2.23.2. Correct major & minor, but wrong conclusion.  
 2.23.3. **It should be:** [1] This Man forgives sins. [2] Only God can forgive sin. [3] Therefore this Man is God!  
 2.23.4. Precisely the point. Their **reasoning** was exact...but it **didn't** bring them to Christ.  
 2.23.5. "If that hole in the roof teaches us anything, it's that **faith** is what brings a person to Jesus, not **intellectual reasoning's**. Curiosity crowded the classroom, but it was faith that dug through the roof to bring the paralytic to the feet of Christ."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> "Incredible Moments" Ken Gire; pg.25

- 2.24. **Which is easier?** – Both are easy to **say**. But both are equally **impossible to do**...*unless of course you are God!*
- 2.24.1. **In that case one is as easy as the other!**
- 2.24.2. Any Charlatan or snake charmer could **say**, “**your sins are forgiven!**”
- 2.24.3. **Jesus does** what NO mortal man can **do**...**forgive sins** ...against God!
- 2.24.4. **No person, no priest, no pastor, no denomination can do this!**
- 2.24.4.1. Sin is against God. You can't go to anyone else for forgiveness. [i.e. if you sin against Mary, can you go to Jane for forgiveness? – No, you must go to whom you've sinned against]
- 2.24.5. **Q: What is Christianity? What is the distinctive thing that Christianity has to proclaim to men? – The forgiveness of sin!** 😊
- 2.25. **The healing of the body is a great miracle, but it **does not last**.**
- 2.25.1. The forgiveness of **sin** is God's **greatest miracle**, **It lasts forever**, & accomplishes the **greatest good!**
- 2.25.2. “God's goal isn't to do a **patchwork job** on our lives...He came to **make us whole!**”<sup>8</sup>
- 2.25.3. **Spiritual** healing is of much more value than a **physical** one. When Jesus heals a person's **spirit** in salvation, there is also the healing of bitterness, hatred, lust, anger, gossip, & the like.
- 2.25.4. **Physical** paralysis is terrible, but worse yet is **spiritual** paralysis!
- 2.25.4.1. We are all **spiritual cripples**.
- 2.26. (12a) **The crowd** that refused him entrance, now parts like the Red Sea in amazement, to make way for his exit!
- 2.26.1. **The bed** that carried him, he now carried.
- 2.26.2. **Once the sign of his sickness**, now the sign of his **cure!**
- 2.26.2.1. **Like** them man whose **money** was his life. It was his only interest. It was all he lived for. Money was the sign of his sickness. **Then** he gets saved, & starts using his money to serve Jesus, & get people to Jesus.  
The sign of his **sickness** is now the sign of his **cure!**
- 2.27. **Glorifying God** – Folks that's what its all about!
- 2.27.1. **And how do you picture them departing?** - I picture 5 grown men, arm-in-arm, laughing, even skipping down the street, w/tears of joy streaming down their cheeks! {**Healed!** - **Made whole!** - **Forgiven!**}

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<sup>8</sup> Warren Wiersbe; pg.656

- 2.28. A little boy had disobeyed his mother, he got out his slate chalkboard & wrote, “Mom, I’m sorry I was bad. If you forgive me, wipe this out.” The next time he came by, his mother had wiped it clean.
- 2.28.1. Jesus has promised to do that for you!
- 2.28.2. Q: Has Jesus ever personally said to you, “*Your sins are forgiven?*”
- 2.28.2.1. **Invitation:** Hold your chalkboard out to Him this morning. He’ll wipe it clean!
- 2.28.2.2. Job 14:17 “My transgression is sealed up in a bag, & you cover(lit. *plaster over*) my iniquity.”
- 2.29. To do?
- 2.29.1. We need to “raise some roofs” in order to get people to Jesus!
- 2.29.2. We need to do some difficult, out-of-the-ordinary, irregular things. “No crowd too thick; no stairs too steep; no wall too high to climb; no roof too thick!”
- 2.29.3. **Thank** the friends that brought you originally to Jesus!
- 2.29.3.1. 1 gave a clear baton “*Thanks for passing this on to me!*”
- 2.29.4. **Be more sensitive** to others who have other forms of Paralysis:
- 2.29.4.1. Crippled by some debilitating set of circumstances.
- 2.29.4.2. Immobilized by some chronic disease of the soul.
- 2.29.4.3. Stunned by divorce.
- 2.29.4.4. Numbed by the death of a loved one.
- 2.29.4.5. Buried under a heavy load of depression.
- 2.29.4.6. Shattered by a broken relationship.
- 2.30. **End:** “Remember that **God** is our only **sure trust**. To Him, I commend you...my friends, neglect not the duty of **secret prayer!**”