

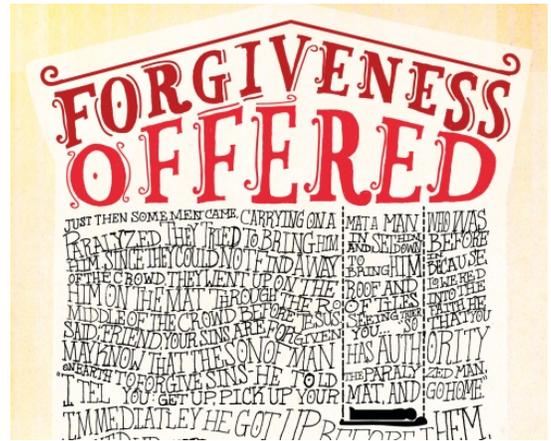
Preaching and Teaching
Week of October 3rd through October 9th, 2011
Text: Luke 5:17-26, 29-32

Outline of Focal Passage:

1. **Jesus Honors Faith** (Luke 5:17-20)
2. **Jesus Forgives Sin** (Luke 5:21-26)
3. **Jesus Seeks Sinners** (Luke 5:29-32)

1. Jesus Honors Faith - Luke 5:17-20

- A. When Jesus began His public ministry, news about Him spread quickly throughout the region. People came from Galilee and Judea to hear Him preach and teach. Religious leaders came to hear Him too.



Why did the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law come to hear Jesus?

- B. Some friends brought a paralyzed man to Jesus by his friends.
- i. They had tried to take him through the sea of people to Jesus, but apparently they couldn't get the stretcher through the press of the crowd that surrounded Him.
 - ii. Determined to present their paralyzed friend to Jesus, they hoisted him up to the rooftop of the house in which Jesus was teaching.
 - iii. They removed the roof tiles, carefully lowered their friend through the hole they had created, and gently set him down directly in front of Jesus.
- C. Housing Styles in Jesus' Day.
- i. Jewish houses were not built like our houses.
 - ii. Jewish houses were usually flat roofed, with stairs built into the side of the house for access to the roof.
 - iii. Once on the flat roof _____
- D. What can we say about these friends of the paralyzed man?
- i. They were way more than friends.
 - ii. Nothing was going to stop them from bringing their friend to Jesus.
 - iii. True friends do whatever is necessary to get their friends to Jesus.
 - iv. So, what kind of friend are you? _____
- E. Not only were they great friends, but they also demonstrated a depth of faith that Jesus noticed immediately.
- i. They believed without any doubt that Jesus could heal their friend's paralysis.
 - ii. They put their faith to work and would not allow anything to discourage them from bringing

him to Jesus.

F. What kind of faith do you have?

- i. Do you have the kind of faith that would go to work in concrete ways? _____
- ii. Do you believe without any doubt that Jesus could make a big difference in your friend's life? _____
- iii. Are you willing to do whatever it takes to get your friend to Jesus? _____

How far are you willing to go to bring your friends to Jesus?

1. Invite them to church with you? Yes ___ No ___
2. Provide transportation for them? Yes ___ No ___
3. Sit with them so they will feel more comfortable? Yes ___ No ___
4. Introduce them to people of the church? Yes ___ No ___
5. Have a party at your house for them and invite your favorite teacher? Yes ___ No ___

G. The text reads... "Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven.'"

- i. Did you catch that? If not read it again!
- ii. What do you make of that... "**Their** faith...**your** sins forgiven?"

- iii. Can You believe for someone else? _____
- iv. The paralyzed man also had faith, because Jesus forgave his sins.
- v. Maybe than man had given up all hope of healing.
- vi. But his friends had faith that Jesus could heal the man.
- vii. There are times when we can believe for a weaker brother/sister.
- viii. We can believe for them; take them to Jesus; and then their faith blossoms as well.
- ix. This is what happens in baptism.

2. Jesus Forgives Sins - Luke 5:21-26

- A. The Pharisees complain that **ONLY** God can forgive sins. They accuse Jesus of blasphemy. What is that? _____
- B. Jesus proposes a question: Which is easier to say "your sins are forgiven?" or "get up and walk?"

- C. To prove Jesus does have power to forgive sins, He tells the man to "get up and walk." The man gets up and walk away.
- D. What does that say about "WHO" Jesus is? _____
- E. Notice how the people reacted: They gave "glory to God." Why?

- F. What **TWO** incredible things did these people see that day?

G. What incredible things have you seen God do in your life?

H. How easy is it then to praise and glorify God?

Set the events of Luke 5:17-26 in chronological order:

- ___ Jesus healed the paralyzed man's body.
- ___ The religious leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy.
- ___ The paralyzed man and his friends showed faith in Jesus.
- ___ Jesus forgave the paralyzed man's sin.
- ___ Sincere seekers praised God.
- ___ Jesus recognized the faith of the paralyzed man and his friends.

3. Jesus Seeks Sinners - (Luke 5:29-32)

- A. Jesus happens to meet Levi (also identified as Matthew in Matthew 9:9) in his tax booth or office. What does his name suggest about this man? _____
- B. As a tax collector, Levi had the opportunity to get wealthy by making people pay more tax money than necessary and keeping the extra cash he collected for himself. This is one reason why people hated them so.
- C. Why does Levi follow Jesus? _____
- D. Levi wanted his fellow tax collectors to meet Jesus. He didn't want any of his friends to miss out on the opportunity to know Jesus personally. Of course, Jesus showed up at the banquet and helped them all to see for themselves why Levi left his lucrative profession and followed Him.
- E. Notice Levi's method of sharing Jesus with his friends:
 - i. He introduced his lost friends to Jesus simply by inviting them both to a meal at his home.
 - ii. His invitation may have read: _____
 - iii. I call this a "Matthew Party!" What's a Matthew Party?

 - iv. Levi must have known that Jesus would be willing to associate Himself with the social and religious outcasts of His day. Jesus showed us by His example how to treat people who may be distant from Him or haven't been saved yet. That's not how the Pharisees treated people they considered outcasts and sinners.
- F. Speaking of Pharisees ... They seem to be everywhere.
 - i. They considered these people _____
 - ii. They thought Jesus ought to be ashamed of Himself for associating with such dregs of society.

- iii. They registered their complaint with Jesus' disciples about the way Jesus didn't seem to have a problem with eating and drinking with such unclean sinners.
- G. Jesus' reply was simply: _____
- i. Like a skilled doctor who could make sick patients well, Jesus knew how to make sinners whole again.
 - ii. No matter how sinful people may have been, they can repent and turn to Jesus.
 - iii. He would forgive them and set them on the path of righteousness.
- H. Jesus' goal of His ministry: _____
- i. Sadly, Jesus knew that some people wouldn't see themselves as sinners and in need of God's forgiveness.
 - ii. The Pharisees thought they were good enough, having kept God's Law, to earn the privilege of a relationship with God.
 - iii. St. Paul said: **Romans 3:23** "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
 - iv. How sad, when people ask God to give them what they deserve.
 - v. St. Paul said again: **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- I. Now that you have encountered this remarkable truth about Jesus' authority to forgive sins, what will you do with it?
- i. Jesus wants all people to experience His forgiveness.
 - ii. Such a message of grace needs to be shared with everyone.
 - iii. Will you determine in your heart that sharing the good news of His forgiveness will be a priority in your life?