



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 12

## JESUS HEALS THE PARALYTIC

*Forgiveness is the greater healing.*



**MONDAY**

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### **THE STORY: LUKE 5:17-20**

Among a crowd of skeptics, men of faith were found. We often do not consider who made up the crowd in this familiar story. The word had gotten out about Jesus. His reputation for miracles and healing drew Pharisees and teachers of the law from the surrounding villages. When the men who carried the paralyzed man could find no way through the crowd of religious rulers, they decided to try lowering their friend to Jesus through the roof. The text tells us that the power of the Lord was present for healing, but we do not read about any Pharisee being healed. The rulers came to evaluate and judge Jesus. They were filled with doubt in their hearts. When Jesus saw the men lower the cripple through a hole in the roof, He commended their faith.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

How many religious rulers were present? (We are not told the exact number, but in all of Israel there would have been thousands of scribes, Pharisees, and teachers of the law. We can assume reading the text that at least a large part of the crowd was made up of religious rulers.)

How did the men demonstrate their faith? (They did not give up. They persisted in their efforts to bring the crippled man to Jesus so that he might be healed. Perseverance and persistence in pursuing the Lord is one way that faith in God is demonstrated.)

Do we ever find ourselves in a situation where persistence in our pursuit of Jesus is called for? (Yes, we are called to persevere in prayer. When we pray but do not see an immediate result, we should have faith and keep praying.)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help you pursue the Lord like the men of faith in this story.



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**TUESDAY**

**THE STORY: LUKE 5:20-25**

Jesus knew their thoughts. When Jesus forgave the sins of the crippled man, the Pharisees questioned in their minds His authority to forgive sins. Jesus, however, knew their thoughts. We can too quickly glance over the amazing fact that God is aware of every one of our thoughts. We can fool ourselves into thinking that our sinful thoughts are somehow hidden from Him. They may be hidden from everyone else, but not from God. Rather than rebuke these men for doubting, Jesus gave them reason to believe. He healed the paralyzed man. By healing the man, Jesus demonstrated that He had the authority to forgive sins.

**TALK ABOUT IT**

Does God know all our thoughts? (Yes, God knows all our thoughts.)

How should this affect the way we guard our thoughts? (We need to remember that we can't hide our sinful thoughts from His view. God knows them.)

What is the best way to keep our sinful thoughts from being hidden? (The best way to keep them from being hidden is to confess them. The Bible tells us 1 John 1:8-9 that when we confess our sins, we are bringing them out into the light. Parents, take time to invite your children to think about their thoughts and confess anything to you they have been hiding.)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help you not hide your sinful thoughts. Ask Him to help you be humble, to confess your sins to Him and talk about your struggles with sin to others.



**WEDNESDAY**  
**WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

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**THE STORY: MATTHEW 9:1-8**

The teachers of the law, the scribes, and Pharisees knew full well that only God had the power to forgive sins. In response to their objections (remember, Jesus knew what was in their hearts), Jesus challenged them by healing the crippled man. By this He was saying they were correct. Only God could forgive sins; Jesus is God.

The teachers, scribes, and Pharisees were amazed along with everyone else. Jesus was more than a good man or teacher. He was God Himself, sent to suffer and die for our sins. Jesus could forgive the man based only on the cross. The paralyzed man placed his faith in Jesus, the Savior, and God forgave him.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Which is easier to do: heal a man, or forgive his sins? (Clearly forgiving sins is the more difficult task. Though both are acts of mercy, the forgiveness of sins would require that Jesus go to the cross.)

How can we take forgiveness for granted? (When we sin, we sometimes are casual or glib about the way we ask Him to forgive us. We fail to stop and consider the great cost and hardship that came upon Jesus when He took the Father's wrath for our sin upon Himself.)

**PRAY:**

Ask Jesus to help every member of your family consider the cost of our forgiveness.



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**THURSDAY**

**THE STORY: LUKE 5:24-26**

The paralytic was healed and everyone was amazed. It is interesting to see the results of Jesus' miracle. The paralytic left praising God, and everyone, which including the Pharisees, gave praise to God. Though they didn't fully see that Jesus was God, they knew that any healing was the result of God. For them, Jesus could have been a prophet, for the prophets could heal. Prophets from the Old Testament did heal, but they did not personally forgive sins. The people present were struck with such awe that they failed to realize God was among them. Had they realized that Jesus was God, their response would have been to worship Him.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What do we know about Jesus that the crowd did not? (We know that Jesus is God.)

What should our response be in reading a story like this? (Our response should be more than the crowd's reaction to the healing. We should respond like them with amazement, but then, since we know Jesus is God, our amazement should lead us to worship.)

**PRAY:**

Take time to offer worship and praise to the Lord for His marvelous deeds.



**FRIDAY**  
**ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

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**THE STORY: PSALM 119:97-104**

Though the claim of this passage might be pursued by any man, Jesus is the only man who fulfilled the claim. Jesus is the only one who meditated on the law of the Lord all the day and kept His feet from every evil way.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How does Psalm 119:98 fit in with the passage for this week in Luke 5? (In Luke 5:21, the scribes and the Pharisees questioned Jesus, trying to trap him. Jesus, however, was wiser than the Pharisees. He even knew what they were thinking!)

How should we apply this passage to our own lives, even though we are not perfect in our obedience? (God's Word can make us wiser than our enemies, help keep our feet from evil, and give us understanding. We should try to meditate on God's Word every day.)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help you follow the way of Psalm 119 in loving, meditating on, and following God's law.