



Luke 5:17-26

Luke 5:17-26 is one of my favorite stories in the Bible. Take a moment and read it.

Most people I've heard discuss this passage focus on the friends of the paralytic who did not let something as big as a crowded house stop them from getting their friend to Jesus. They were willing to dig a hole in the roof and interrupt Jesus teaching so their friend could be healed. While I think these friends are great examples of how determined we should be to bring our friends to Jesus, I also think that it is important not to miss what some really big things happening in this passage.

Pay attention to who is in attendance. Some Pharisees and teachers of the law were listening to Jesus teach. When Jesus sees the paralyzed man, He immediately tells him his sins are forgiven. This is a big deal considering most people in the room thought the man's sin was the reason he was paralyzed in the first place. In their eyes, Jesus moved past the symptoms and took on the disease. This seemed like blasphemy to them because only God could forgive sins. And sin was the man's big issue – not his paralysis.

Jesus makes His point by saying, "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." (v. 24) By this, Jesus was letting them know:

1. He was the Son of Man – a reference to the Messiah and the first time in Luke Jesus refers to himself this way.
2. He was God's Son. He had the power to forgive sins and heal the sick.
3. In a room full of the most important people in society, He had the most authority.

The same is true today. No matter what is going on, Jesus is always the most important person in the room. We have a lot of problems in the world, but our most important issue is our sin. That is what needs fixing the most. We can come to Jesus for healing, and cast our anxiety upon Him, and we need to bring our friends to him as well. But Jesus is going to want to address what affects eternity for us – our sin.

Pray to God this morning. Thank Him for His provision and His protection. But spend some time truly thanking Him for His forgiveness. It is what we need the most.