

**Jesus: By Any
Means Necessary!**
Luke 5:17-26

Observations

- **The need for Jesus in the world has never been more profound than it is right now**
- **Man's inhumanity to man is "globally" at an all-time low**
- **The horrendous stories from the Ukrainian devastation permeate our airwaves everyday (thousands of innocent women and children are dying ruthlessly)**
- **Social injustices in this country today are "blatant reminders" that the racial atrocities of yesteryear that had been buried, can be resurrected at any time (U.S. Senator recently said that monetary repayments for the generational results of slavery will only fund African-American crime)**
- **With so much Black-on-Black Crime, the question has been justifiably raised: Do Black Lives Matter to Black People?**
- **As "ambassadors for Christ," 2 Cor. 5:20, we are challenged even in this environment to bring people to Jesus, Matt. 5:16**



The Story

- **At the center of this story is a man who was paralyzed**
- **We aren't told how this had happened (from birth, stroke, a fall from a tree or a roof). But he had to be carried to Jesus**
- **There was no way he could get to Jesus on his own**

Do You Know People Like This?

- **Someone who needs Jesus in their lives, but there is no way that they will get to Jesus, or even come to church on their own**
- **Maybe they're paralyzed too! (got hurt/criticized in church years ago, and decided never to return). Maybe they were wounded by "poor ambassadors."**
- **Some are "paralyzed" and disappointed by church hypocrisy: members who "talked the talk but didn't walk the walk." As a result they refuse to come to Jesus on their own**

In This Story the Paralyzed Man Had Acquired Some Wonderful Friends

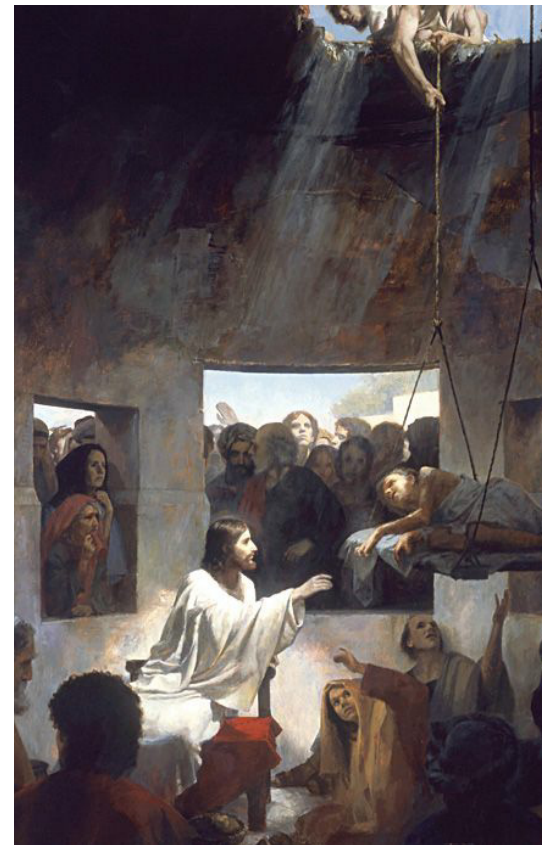
- They were willing to bear the burden of this man's problem
- He trusted them to carry what he valued most (his life)

We tend to trust those who value what we value (many of our life's decisions are based on that principle)

- Family members have different values (trust issues)
- This man needed to see Jesus moving in the lives of his friends to get acquainted with the Savior (our friends need our spiritual testimonials, what it took to convict us)
- They didn't know what Jesus would do for their friend but carried him anyway. We don't know how Jesus will affect our friends, but they still need our assistance in getting to Him
- Did they have to convince him to take the risk? How long would they carry him? They did run into obstacles?

The Crowd Blocked Their Friend's Access to Jesus!

- That inconvenience didn't stop this man's friends
 - They had to go the extra mile for their friend's needs
 - Do you know someone who needs you to carry them to Jesus? (not enablers)
 - These friends delivered their friend to Jesus: **By Any Means Necessary!**
 - They interrupted the protocol/ environment of a religious meeting because of their friend's need for Jesus
- Some Baptisms may interrupt Sunday protocol! (our plans for the day)**



Look at Luke 5:20

- When Jesus observed the confidence that the friends had in Him, He immediately began to address their friend's needs
- Jesus may choose to spend more time with our concerns because of Our Faith in Action, Hebrews 11:6
- Notice that Jesus addresses their friend's needs "from the inside out," and not the reverse
- The first thing Jesus said to the paralyzed man is, "thy sins be forgiven thee"
- "What sins could a paralyzed man have committed that needed to be addressed now?"

We Need to Remember This:

Jesus Knows Us Better Than Anyone Else

- I believe that Jesus addressed some spiritual needs He knew the paralyzed man had. Was he a liar? A scam artist? A lustful guy? Was he full of jealousy and envy?
- Jesus addressed the man's personal life because He knew it
- Our spiritual needs are much more important than our physical ones, Mark 8:36, "What doth it profit a man" What good is it for someone to gain the whole world (to walk again, to have a CABG, cataract sx, new job), and lose his soul?
- How many times has Jesus touched your heart first through a sermon, a personal Bible study, a Bible class, or an experience that provoked you to live better physical life, because of the moral lessons you received?

Jesus Healed the Man But Left His Competitors With a Question

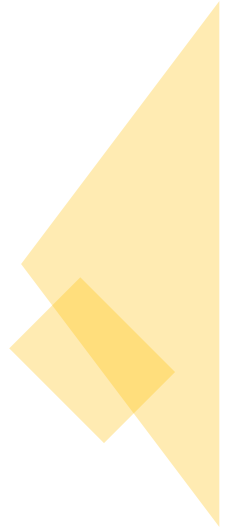
Luke 5:21-23

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Which is easier to say, ‘Your sins be forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

***Ambassadors Who Bring
Others To Jesus Must
Internalize the Message of
Jesus for Themselves In Their
Own Lives!***

2 Corinthians 5:20



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

