

SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES





LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS



HEAD

- ✚ Jesus, as the Son of Man, has been given authority, by the Ancient of Days to reign and rule on the earth, and with that authority comes the power and prerogative to forgive sins.
- ✚ Jesus sees, acknowledges, and responds to **through the roof** faith.
- ✚ The proper response to God doing the remarkable in our lives is to give Him glory.

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HEART

✚ (1) The four friends refused to wait for a convenient moment and instead tore open a roof to get their paralyzed friend before Jesus – what barriers or obstacles are currently standing between someone you love and an encounter with Christ, and what unconventional action might faith require of you?

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HEART

✚ (2) The sermon distinguishes between a faith that **waits** and a faith that '**wends**' or moves forward with urgency – how do you discern in your own life when God is calling you to patient waiting versus bold, immediate action?

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HEART

✚ (3) Jesus perceived the unspoken thoughts of the scribes and Pharisees before they said a word – how does the reality that Jesus knows not just our actions and words but also our private thoughts and perceptions shape the way you approach him in prayer and daily life?

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HEART

✚ (4) The sermon notes that Walter Liefeld argues faith cannot be exercised by proxy, meaning a person must ultimately believe for themselves even if others bring them to Jesus – how does this tension between the intercessory role of community and the deeply personal nature of salvation challenge or encourage your approach to evangelism or intercession?

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HEART

✚ (5) Jesus forgave the paralytic's sins before healing his body, addressing the spiritual need before the physical one – what does this order of priority reveal about what Jesus considers humanity's most fundamental problem, and how does that reorder your own understanding of what you need most from him?

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HEART

✚ (6) The Retribution Principle held that suffering indicated wickedness, yet the sermon notes that Scripture ultimately rejects this as a reliable formula – in what ways do you still find yourself unconsciously applying this principle when you encounter someone else's hardship or your own?

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HEART

✚ (7) The former paralytic left the house carrying the very stretcher he had been carried in on, glorifying God, and the entire crowd was seized with awe – when was the last time you witnessed or experienced something so undeniably from God that it left you frozen in wonder, and what does it mean for that awe to find its proper expression in worship?

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 1: **Identify your roof**. What barrier, obstacle, or impediment is currently keeping you or someone you love from getting in front of Jesus? Write it down. Pray over it this week and ask God whether he is calling you to wait or to act.

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 2: **Be a stretcher-bearer**. Think of one person in your life who needs to be brought closer to Jesus. Commit to one specific, concrete action this week that moves them closer, whether that is an invitation, a conversation, a meal, or consistent prayer on their behalf.

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 3: **Examine your interior life.** Since Jesus perceives thoughts and not just words, spend time this week in honest reflection and prayer about the thoughts you would not want others to hear. Bring those before God and ask for his forgiveness and renewal.

– Luke 5:17-26 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 4: **Practice public praise.** The former paralytic went home glorifying God openly. Consider one way this week that you can openly and specifically give God credit for something he has done in your life, whether in conversation, in writing, or in your community.

– Luke 5:17-26 –





FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL



Day 1: The Authority That Changes Everything

Reading: Luke 5:17-26

- ✚ **Devotional:** There is a moment in every life when a person encounters the full weight of what Jesus actually claims about himself. He does not merely offer comfort or moral instruction. He forgives sin. That claim either makes him God or makes him dangerous – there is no middle ground. The scribes and Pharisees understood this perfectly. Their error was not in recognizing the gravity of the claim. Their error was in refusing to accept that the claim was true. Jesus answered their silent objections not with argument alone but with a visible, undeniable miracle. The man who arrived on a stretcher walked home carrying it. When Jesus speaks, the impossible becomes the ordinary. Let that truth settle into the deepest part of who you are today.
- ✚ **Personal Reflection:** Where in your life have you reduced Jesus to a teacher or moral guide rather than the sovereign Lord who holds authority over your sin and your suffering?
- ✚ **Practical Application:** Write down one area of your life where you have been waiting for God to act. Bring it before Jesus today in prayer, trusting that the same authority that raised a paralyzed man is active and present in your circumstances.

– Luke 5:17-26 –



Day 2: Faith That Wends

Reading: James 2:14-26

- 🌟 **Devotional:** The four friends in Luke 5 did not sit outside the house and pray that someone would open the door for them. They climbed to the roof, tore it open, and lowered their friend directly before Jesus. Their faith was not quiet or polite. It was urgent, disruptive, and costly. It required physical labor, social risk, and the destruction of someone else's property. Yet Jesus saw it and honored it. Scripture presents two kinds of faith – a faith that waits on God in patient trust, and a faith that moves forward with fierce urgency because the moment demands action. Both are valid. Both are necessary. The question worth sitting with today is this: which kind of faith does your current situation require of you?
- 🌟 **Personal Reflection:** Is there someone in your life who needs to be brought before Jesus – a friend, a family member, a colleague – whose situation calls you to act with urgency rather than wait passively?
- 🌟 **Practical Application:** Identify one person you have been meaning to pray for, encourage, or invite into a conversation about faith. Take one concrete step toward that person today. Do not wait for a more convenient moment.

– Luke 5:17-26 –



Day 3: The God Who Reads the Room

Reading: Psalm 139:1-12

- ✚ **Devotional:** Luke 5:22 contains one of the most quietly unsettling statements in all of Scripture. Jesus, perceiving the unspoken thoughts of the scribes and Pharisees, addresses what they never said out loud. He knew their internal objections before a single syllable crossed their lips. This is not a small detail. It is a declaration of omniscience. The God who formed you in the womb knows every thought you have carried in secret – the doubts you have never voiced, the fears you have buried beneath productivity, the questions about his goodness you have been too cautious to ask. He is not threatened by any of it. He meets you there, in the unspoken places, with the same authority and grace he extended to a room full of skeptics in Capernaum.
- ✚ **Personal Reflection:** What thoughts about God, about your faith, or about your circumstances have you been afraid to bring into the open? What would it mean to bring them honestly before him today?
- ✚ **Practical Application:** Spend ten minutes in honest, unfiltered prayer. Say the things you have been holding back. God already knows them. Naming them before him is not a crisis of faith – it is an act of faith.

– Luke 5:17-26 –



Day 4: Sin, Suffering, and the Grace That Covers Both

Reading: John 9:1-7

- 🌟 **Devotional:** The Retribution Principle – the belief that suffering always indicates sin and prosperity always indicates righteousness – is deeply embedded in human thinking. It was present in Jesus's day, and it is present in ours. When the paralyzed man was lowered before Jesus, the crowd would have assumed his condition was divine punishment for moral failure. Jesus did not dismiss the connection between sin and consequence in this particular case. But what he did was far more remarkable than simply healing a body. He addressed the root before he addressed the symptom. He forgave sin before he restored mobility. Grace, in the hands of Jesus, does not merely manage consequences. It goes to the source. Whatever you are carrying today – guilt, shame, the weight of past failure – Jesus does not begin with your symptoms. He begins with your soul.
- 🌟 **Personal Reflection:** Have you ever interpreted personal suffering as evidence that God is punishing you? How does the ministry of Jesus challenge or reframe that interpretation?
- 🌟 **Practical Application:** Read a passage from the book of Job today – specifically Job 1:1-22. Notice that Job's suffering had nothing to do with his personal sin. Ask God to help you resist the impulse to assign simplistic spiritual explanations to complex human pain.

– Luke 5:17-26 –



Day 5: The Only Response That Makes Sense

Reading: Psalm 103:1-12

- ✚ **Devotional:** When the paralyzed man stood up, picked up his stretcher, and walked home, Luke tells us he went glorifying God. The crowd who witnessed it was seized with awe and gave glory to God as well. This is the only appropriate response to an encounter with the living Christ. Not analysis. Not debate. Not a measured theological assessment of what just happened. Worship. The word Luke uses to describe the crowd's reaction carries the sense of being so overwhelmed that rational faculties are momentarily suspended. They were, as the sermon described, shocked out of their senses. There are moments in the life of faith when the right response is not to understand but to worship. When God does something in your life that defies explanation, do not rush past it to the next item on your agenda. Stop. Glorify him. Let the awe be what it is.
- ✚ **Personal Reflection:** When was the last time something God did in your life left you genuinely speechless? Have you taken time to return to that moment and give him the glory that belongs to him?
- ✚ **Practical Application:** Set aside fifteen minutes today for worship with no agenda beyond glorifying God. Play music, read a psalm aloud, or simply sit in silence and rehearse what God has done in your life. Let gratitude be the posture of your entire day.

– Luke 5:17-26 –



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: Dear Abba, we acknowledge that a man who arrived on a stretcher carried by four friends, left carrying that same stretcher on his own shoulders, glorifying You the entire way home. That is a picture of what You do Jesus. You do not merely improve our condition. You transform it entirely, addressing both the root cause and its consequences. We glorify You for performing this ministry in our lives. In Jesus' mighty, matchless, majestic name, Amen."

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