

## THE HABITS OF LIFESAVERS

### STORY: Part Four

March 22, 2015

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<sup>17</sup> One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus.

<sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, <sup>19</sup> but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."

<sup>21</sup> But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

<sup>25</sup> And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup> Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

Luke 5:17–26 (NLT)

## THE HABITS OF LIFESUCKERS AND LIFESAVERS

### 1. **LIFESUCKERS** BLOCK PEOPLE FROM JESUS **LIFESAVERS** BRING PEOPLE TO JESUS

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2, NIV) cf. John 1:40–45*

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." (Luke 19:10, NLT)*

*"But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with such scum?' When Jesus heard this, he said, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do.' Then he added, 'Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.'" (Matthew 9:11–13, NLT)*

*"Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose." (Philippians 2:2, NLT)*

*"...I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22, NIV)*

*“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)*

**2. LIFESUCKERS BRING CONDEMNATION  
LIFESAVERS BRING LIBERATION**

*“Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, “Young man, your sins are forgiven.”” (Luke 5:20, NLT)*

**God forgives:**

- **INSTANTLY**  
*“...you are a God of forgiveness, always ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and full of love and mercy...” (Nehemiah 9:17, The Living Bible)*
- **COMPLETELY**  
*“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.” (Hebrews 7:25, NIV)*
- **REPEATEDLY**  
*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9, NIV)*
- **FREELY**  
*“...all are justified by the free gift of his grace through being set free in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:24, NJB)*

**3. LIFESUCKERS WON'T STEP UP  
LIFESAVERS CAN'T SHUT UP!**

*“And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God.” (Luke 5:25, NLT)*

*“...I will tell you what he did for me.” (Psalm 66:16, NLT)*

*“...Let the whole world know what he has done.” (1 Chronicles 16:8, NLT)*

*“Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you...” (Psalm 107:2, NLT)*

**ACTION STEPS**  
**CLASS 101**  
**INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH**  
**Publish your #story**