

Sermon #10: Friends, Faith & Healing

03/21/21

BREAKING THE ICE

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 5:17-26)

1. Read verse 17 again. Think about the setting where this event takes place. Who was present? Who do you believe was inside the house where Jesus was teaching and who were those outside the house? Why do you think the setting looked this way?
2. This is the first record in Luke's gospel of Jesus' interplay with the Jewish religious leaders of His day. Mark tells us this encounter happened in Capernaum (Mark 2:1). What do you think would draw so many religious leaders from so many from so many different locations (see verse 17)?
3. In verse 18, we see some men attempting to bring a paralyzed friend to Jesus believing He could heal their friend. To whose faith did Jesus respond. Do you find this puzzling? Why?
4. Put yourself on the paralyzed man's mat for a moment. You've just been lowered through the roof and Jesus is now looking down at you. He then says, "Friend, your sins are forgiven" (verse 20). What would be your first reaction to Jesus' words? Why?
5. The paralyzed man had two distinct needs. What were they? How did Jesus perfectly address the paralyzed man's deepest need?
6. What do you think of the Pharisees' questions (see verse 21)? Were they right to ask such questions? Why?
7. Review Jesus' response (verses 22-24). Jesus frequently referred to Himself as the "Son of Man." What significance does this phrase hold? (Hint, see Daniel 7:13-14). How does the description of what Daniel saw correspond with Jesus' true identity?
8. Why do you suppose Jesus performed this miracle in the order He did (first forgiving the man's sins, then healing his paralysis)?
9. How did the Pharisees and teachers of the law react to Jesus' healing this man (see verse 26)? Is saying, "We have seen remarkable things today," an indicator that their hearts were changed? Why or why not?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

John tells us, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14).

- *How does this encounter with the paralyzed man, his friends and the Pharisees demonstrate Jesus being filled with grace and truth?*

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Recall the faith of the man's friends. What impact can your faith have on others (family, friends, work colleagues)?
2. What specific steps do you need to take in order to increase the impact of your faith on others?
3. People without Jesus are like the paralyzed man in Luke's account. What tangible things can you do to be like this man's friends?
4. Are there areas in your life where your faith needs to grow stronger?
5. How could your small group encourage you in this regard?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.