

## “A Year with Jesus” Week 10, March 7th, Luke 5:17-26

//Read Luke 5:17-26

What are your first impressions of the story? What stands out?

### *Notes on the story*

*Because our emphasis will be on the uniqueness of the healing story, here's some brief notes on the theological questions the interaction with the religious leaders might raise. The connecting of forgiveness and physical healing highlights the wholistic nature of Jesus power and ministry, with the external healing providing evidence for his ability to heal us spiritually as well. The Gospel writers are establishing Jesus' divine/messianic nature. This is not a claim that the man's sin caused his paralysis.*

Reflect on the story in two ways...

//Read through the story again and imagine it from the perspective of the friends carrying the paralyzed man. What are your emotions at each stage of the journey and at each obstacle? What is it like to observe the work of Jesus?

For further reflection...

Our ministry for another can most simply be labeled as carrying someone before Jesus. Think of all the ways that we can carry someone to Jesus' feet. Don't rush through this, become aware of the extent to which we can minister to another by bringing them into his presence.

Who are you currently carrying before Jesus? Who else could you be bringing before Jesus in one of your listed ways? What is it that only Jesus can give, and frees you to see your role as simply bringing them to his feet?

Close this first reflection by imagining the story again. This time imagine yourself (and others who might share in this ministry) carrying one of the people you mentioned above on the mat to the feet of Jesus.

//Read through the story a final time, now imagining yourself on the mat. Again, experience each of the scenarios in the story.

*The obvious connection is to ask in what ways you need to be healed and forgiven in the presence of Jesus. If you are feeling led to explore these questions then please do so, but primarily I'd like to lead you toward another direction.*

Place yourself on the mat once again being brought to Jesus, and this time look up into the faces of those carrying you. Use the questions and reflections below to identify those doing the lifting.

Who are the people in the different stages of your faith that have helped carry you to the feet of Jesus? Pause and think about each person's contribution to your life and offer thanks for their influence.

Who is currently a spiritual friend that carries you into Jesus' presence? In what ways do they do this?

Again, pause and be grateful for their influence in your life. Once you've done this, make a plan this week to thank one or more of the people you've mentioned. When you do, be specific about how they've been a "carrying friend" in your life.

//A Final Reflection: What insight do you gain when comparing the two images in your life, you being the carryer, and you being carried?

//Close your time by reading vss. 25-26. The end result is praise! How might you offer praise as a result of time with God in the story today?