

## **The Gospel of Luke**

### **The Paralytic and the Forgiver of Sins**

Luke 5:17-26<sup>1</sup>

Suggested Memory Verse: James 1:12

#### **1. The Occasion** (v.17)

The popularity and prominence of Jesus' prolific ministry had prompted a large number of Israel's religious leadership to personally examine Him one day as He was teaching in Capernaum (Mark 2:1). So many people had gathered that there was not even room to stand in the house where He was teaching (Mark 2:2).

#### **2. The Conflict** (vs.18-23)

##### **A. The Interruption** (vs.18-19)

Not being dissuaded by their inability to see Jesus, five men picked an unconventional way to ensure that one of them would be able to see Jesus.

##### **B. An Audacious Claim** (v.20)

While this man's need of physical healing was obvious to all, Jesus instead proclaimed the man's sins forgiven.

##### **C. A Serious Debate** (vs.21-23)

Most people missed the significance of what Jesus said and did (cf. Matt 9:8), but the Pharisees' internal debate over Jesus' claim was justifiable because they clearly understood that only God Himself can forgive sins (Ex 34:6; Isa 43:25; Jer 31:34).

#### **3. The Resolution** (vs.24-25)

Jesus proved that He did the impossible which no man can see by doing the impossible which all men saw.

#### **4. The Result** (v.26)

Even though they missed the significance of Jesus' claim to forgive sins, the crowds marveled at what Jesus had done (Matt 9:8). The formerly paralyzed man, now forgiven and healed, went away justified and glorifying God from the heart. And while the religious leaders likewise gave God the glory with their lips for healing the paralytic, their continued opposition and antagonism to Jesus (Luke 9:7 Mark 9:34) very quickly escalated to conspiring to kill Him (Mark 3:6; Luke 6:11)

---

<sup>1</sup> Parallel accounts of Jesus forgiving the sins and physically healing the paralytic man can be found in Matthew 9:2-8 and Mark 2:1-12.