

TRUST IN JESUS

Luke 5:16-26

¹⁶ But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray. ¹⁷ One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting nearby (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.^[a] ¹⁸ Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus;^[b] ¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd ^[c] in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend,^[d] your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? ²⁴ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the one who was paralyzed—"I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home." ²⁵ Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. ²⁶ Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today."

Giving Honor to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To All of God's sons, daughters, and children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. As we take a look at the text, we see a Blessing of the presence of Christ, a crowd, some friends, and a paralytic man experience love, forgiveness of sins, and a miraculous healing. Hallelujah! Let's go to work.

Jesus' healing the paralytic at Capernaum is one of the miracles of our Lord Jesus in the Gospels in Matthew (9:1-8), Mark (2:1-12), and Luke (5:17-26). ... When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." If you would allow me to use my theological imagination: The man had some friends that cared about him. I would go even further and say, that he had a special relationship with these particular friends. They really wanted him to be well.

Remember... Jesus, had withdrawn from the people to spend time in prayer. Something amazing happens to us when we spend time in prayer, seeking God's face and laying before the presence of an Almighty God. So Mighty that He formed the heavens and the earth. He formed the things that we see and the things that are invisible. He formed the waters and the dry land. He formed humanity and He formed galaxies that are light years away. Many of those galaxies require special technology to view because they can't be seen with the naked eye. In prayer we come to God as humble as we know how. Giving Honor to Whom Honor is due. Giving Reverence to Whom Reverence is due. Acknowledging that God woke us up this morning, and started us on our way, we want to acknowledge Him as the author and the finisher of our faith. God, you've been our doctor in the sick room. You've been our lawyer in the courtroom. When we were lost, God you made a way. You put clothes on our backs, shoes on our feet. You put food on the table. You Blessed Us to be in our Right Mind. We just want to "Thank You" for being so Good to us. We want to "Thank You" for your many Blessings. You brought us, at Big Bethel Nation, to the ending of another annual conference year and you kept the death angel away. We just, WE just, We Just want to say "Thank You" for being so very Good to Us. Hallelujah, Hallelujah to the Lamb of God. You've been better to us than we have been to ourselves. You counted it not robbery, to Bless Us with your presence as God the Father; with your presence as Christ Our Lord and Savior, and with your presence as the Holy Spirit. You've been Mighty Good God. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God.

According to the text, on a certain day Jesus was teaching and many were there, and that power of the Lord was present to heal them. And the text teaches us that some men came by and brought a man which was paralyzed. *(This text speaks personally to me, because when I look back over my life. I realized that my life... I mean the reality of truly living began when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I was paralyzed. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. I "Thank God" for*

my family, church, and my friends for bringing me to church so that I could get to know who Christ was for myself.) His friends were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but they couldn't because they experienced the obstacle of the crowd.

I don't know about you, but I found out that you can't always follow the crowd. You can't wait on the crowd. You can't wait to see what everybody in the crowd is going to do. In fact, the crowd in this case prevented them from getting the paralytic man where he so desperately needed to be, which was right there in the presence of Jesus. Oftentimes we need to make up our mind that we're going to move right in the presence of Jesus, because we can't allow the crowd to block the blessings that awaits us. Can I get a witness?

Watch this ... Cause I'm coming on in now. I see a landing strip. "When they could not get in the presence of Jesus, because of the crowd, they made up in their mind to do whatever we have to do. It must be done so that our friend gets in the presence of the Lord and receive his healing. Now, watch this. The men (friends) had to climb up onto the top of the roof. They had to lift the body of the paralytic man, so that he would be on top of the roof. They had to dig up the tiles from on top of the roof, thus creating a whole in the roof. So, the hole in the roof had to be in close proximity to where Jesus was ministering. Then, Good God Almighty, they had to secure the man on his bed with safety, and have the unique ability to lower the man from the roof top, without the roof caving in. These friends had the ability to lower him, and maintain a safe foundation, while on top of the roof near the hole that they dug into the roof. My, My, My... They lower their friend down, who was paralyzed with his bed, through the tiles, into the middle of the crowd, right there in front of Jesus. O' My God... Won't He do it. (Can you see the wisdom, love, and understanding taking place on the roof, while Jesus is ministering under the roof?) When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto him, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you."

Y'all know the rest of the story. The scribes and pharisees began to question Jesus, but He (Jesus) shows His authority on earth to forgive sins. Jesus says to the one who was paralyzed—"I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home." Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God

and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today."

Have you ever had a bed or a crutch in your life and the Lord delivered you? Does anybody have a testimony? Trust in Him (Jesus). You see I tried the rest. Now, I decided to try the best. I had to try Him (Jesus). You have to try Him (Jesus). The world needs to try Him (Jesus). His name is Jesus. Hallelujah, Amen.