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Luke 5:17-26

Weekly Bible Study Schedule

Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 AM in HHR #5

(breakfast provided)

Tuesday, April 5, 8:30 PM in Office #225

(Sen. Wayne Wallingford's office)

**Capitol Commission is non-partisan and
non-denominational**

The gathering crowds saw the miracles of God, the forgiveness of sins, and the teachings of God, and they **saw the unexpected from God**. Jesus didn't show up on the scene with a religious message that weighs people down with rules and regulations. He showed up with teaching that lightens people's spiritual load. He's a God of love, holiness, forgiveness, truth and power. The curious person that might draw close to Him, will find Him remarkable. The critical person that might distance himself/herself will assume Jesus clothed in judgmental religion.

Today, we begin with the end in mind: **Luke 5:17-26**.

26: Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said; "We have seen remarkable things today."

The word remarkable can be translated as paradox. "**Paradox**". **Para is against, Doxa is opinion**. We live in paradox. We live with pluralism. We live amidst adjacent world-views. More than ever, in modern history, we observe the conflict between two kingdoms. We live and work with people who are "Committed to Christ", "Curious about Christ" and "Critics of Christ".

We will not get away from paradox until we have entered into our eternal destination.

My personal conviction is a positive posture "**for**" something and "**for**" **people**, rather than against something or someone. It begs the question: "*what side of the paradox will you choose?*"

17: One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.

We see a delegation of religious leaders - intellectual astute of the day.

Pharisees: a dominant religious sect in rabbinical Judaism—the orthodoxy branch, very conservative. Faithful and protective, were they, of the rabbinical law (Old Testament and Rabbi's interpretation of law). They failed to demonstrate God's love and mercy to people. A **self-righteous group** – made following God ominous. On the other hand, **Sadducees** sect was liberal. They did not believe in the doctrine of the **resurrection**, which is a **core belief of Christians**. The group was very political. Interestingly, they **hijacked what spiritual truth and made it political**.

Teachers of the Law: These were the doctors of the law, the PhD's, lawyers of Scripture. Most of the time the **Scribes** earned they're living by **copying and interpreting the law**. During the time of Jesus Christ there were Jewish teachers who explained the Torah, the law of God, by translating it and giving commentary in the form of parables and various sayings and would carefully show the instructions of the law. For example: laws relating to the Sabbath and food were to be lived out in praxis.

In other words, Jesus' reputation had spread throughout the whole country and all sorts of people gained an interest in Jesus' ministry.

Another three groups were present.

1. The Committed: people of faith who had been waiting for the coming Messiah for 1000's of years. Today, the committed acknowledge Jesus, as the Christ, the Lord and Savior of humankind. When done well, they follow His teachings and reflect His character.

2. The Curious: people who start to hear the stories of Christ. They were interested in Jesus but from a distance—some separated by miles, some by religious questions, and others by life experiences that have soured them toward God. Their doubts and questions led them to a wondering, if what they've heard is true about Jesus. "*Is He the one who can forgive and save humankind from their sins and*



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sicknesses?” Just as we have today, curious seekers, with genuine questions, doubts, and struggling with unanswered questions seek to discover truth.

3. The Critics: people who reject Jesus as God. The Pharisees and Teachers of the Law led this parade: protectors of 2000 rabbinical laws, yet deaf to Jesus’ teachings. Today, some people live life, criticizing God, blaming Him for their pains and problems, rejecting His truth.

18-19: And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, 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 midst before Jesus.

The paralytic man had friends. Without friends he would be stuck in place with little hope. Pity the man that has no friends, especially, in his/her time of need.

His friends carried him up to the roof and lowered him down, on a mat or a bed, into the crowded house. Mediterranean roofs were made with different kinds of materials, and it was a relatively easy thing to dig up the tile and drop him down.

Notice the faith of the man and his friends. They didn’t let the many miles needed to travel prevent them from journeying to find Jesus. They didn’t let the crowds stop them from persevering. They didn’t let the physical obstacles result in their quitting. They believed the narrative of Jesus’ healing was true, at least they hoped it was.

17: the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.

They came to Jesus to receive their friends healing...they had to meet Him personally to determine if He was who He said He was.

Perhaps you’ve heard about Jesus’ teaching, about His love and compassion for people, even that He heals people.

Your interest is peeked. You decide to **travel on your spiritual journey to meet Jesus for yourself**. Seek Him for yourself. Meet Him and then make your decision.

Unfortunately, the obstacles of life, disappointing relationships, and plethora of belief systems try to transform ones curiosity into criticism.

What happened next was a game changer for the onlookers, and the world at large, for that matter.

20: When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

It was His way of declaring that He is God, that what He is teaching are the words of God, the way of God and the power of God.

The **committed** most likely rejoiced, “*at last!*” The **curious** might have questioned: “*How can this be? Only God can forgive sin.*” “*Could Jesus be the promised Messiah?*” The **critic** was likely to say: “*Blasphemy! Only God has authority to forgive sins.*” That’s the point. They were angry. They threatened Him. **They wanted to shut the voice of Jesus’ claim to be God.** Jesus was intentional about forgiving the paralytic man’s sins. Jesus shows that **He has power over the inner man by healing the outer man. What needs to be healed inside you?**

23-25: “Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’ “I tell you, get up, take up your mat and go home.” “Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.”

We must **act to receive God’s gift**. The paralytic man was offered physical healing...he acted and was healed. You and I are offered the forgiveness of our sins...the **committed** have acted. There remains time for the **curious** and **critic** to act. The window of opportunity is open.

26 “Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were all filled with awe and said: “We have seen remarkable things today.””

The choice is yours and the time is now...what side of the paradox will you choose?

