



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Paralytic's Sins Forgiven, Then Healed

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Luke, in chapter four, describes a hostile witness, tempter and adversary, the devil and his demons. After Jesus had spent forty days and nights in the wilderness and not having food during that time and under unsuccessful continual temptations or testing by the devil, Jesus returned to His hometown, Nazareth in Galilee, to begin His earthly ministry. Jesus shared that no prophet is welcome in his hometown and likewise His hometown rejected Jesus and attempted to kill Him. Jesus escaped and traveled 20 miles northwest to Capernaum, on the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. As was His custom, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading scripture and teaching. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities and physically healed people of demons, disease and death. Most importantly, Jesus forgave sin.

“One day He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing. And some men were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, He said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven you.” The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?” But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts? “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins have been forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’ “But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,”—He said to the paralytic—“I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home.” Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen remarkable things today.”(Luke 5:17-26 NASB)

Jesus taught the teachers. Luke shares that one day, while Jesus was teaching the multitudes, Pharisees and teachers of the law (scribes) from near and far were present to hear Him teach. Pharisees, at the time of Jesus, were a Jewish sect that were devoted to the exact observance of the Jewish religion, many times prescribing observances that were not required by God. Pharisees while small in numbers, 6000 according to Josephus, were a powerful political force of the NT times. Scribes or teachers of the Law, who also could have been Pharisees, were scholars who taught, copied and interpreted the Jewish Law for the people. The Pharisees and scribes were attempting to better understand who Jesus was and critically compare Jesus to their understanding of the Jewish religion. Also present were men carrying a paralyzed man who was seeking to be healed. Due to the crowds, the men found a unique way to get their friend before Jesus to be healed.

Jesus forgave sins. Jesus, seeing the faith of the men He said that your sins are forgiven. Jesus initially ignored the original expected request of the man to be healed and addressed the most critical need of the man. In doing this Jesus was making a statement of what authority He had. The Pharisees and scribes were upset and accused Jesus of speaking blasphemies. They understood that God alone could forgive sins. They did not understand that Jesus was God incarnate.

Jesus heals the paralytic. Luke describes Jesus challenging the Pharisees and scribes to consider which is easier, to forgive sins or to heal a paralytic? In their limited understanding they would think that it would be more difficult to heal rather than to forgive sins. Then Jesus healed the paralytic immediately and completely, so that “you may know” that He had the power and authority to save. Again, in their limited understanding they did not understand that it actually would be more difficult to save rather than to heal. Jesus would ultimately give His life for all who believe in Him, so that they would not perish but have eternal life.

They were filled with astonishment and fear. Luke describes that the people were astonished and praising God. Additionally, they were filled with fear, because they saw things that they did not understand.

For Your Consideration:

- Understanding that the most critical sickness of all men is sin. Do you have the same faith and zeal of the men getting the sick man to Jesus?
- If you were present at the event that Luke described, would you have appreciated the healing more than the forgiving of sins?
- Have you accepted the grace of God found through faith in Jesus Christ, who can and will forgive all your sins?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44