

Who Is This Man?!

PASTOR MIKE YODER • LUKE 5:12-26



Luke is showing us how Jesus' Kingdom brought restoration and reversal of people's whole life circumstances. He's expanding the circle of people who get invited in to discover the healing power of God's Kingdom.

While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged Him, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

Luke 5:12

Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man.

“I am willing,” He said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.

Then Jesus ordered him, “Don’t tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.”

Yet the news about Him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

Luke 5:15

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 5:16

One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.

Luke 5:17

Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.

Luke 5:18

When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

Luke 5:20

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?”

Luke 5:22

*Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say,
‘Get up and walk’?*

Luke 5:23

But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So He said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take 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.

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

Luke 5:26

Because of His power and
compassion, Jesus shows
that He can heal. (5:12–16)



Jesus instructed the man not to reveal who had healed him, but the cleansed leper became an enthusiastic witness for the Lord. Jesus commands us to tell everybody, and we keep quiet.

Warren Wiersbe

Jesus was much more interested in the *quality* of the people's response to Him than in the *quantity* of the crowd.

Tim Keller

Jesus did not have contaminating power, but cleansing power.

The healing of the paralytic raises the stakes as it takes Jesus' theological claims to higher levels. The issue is not just His power, but the extent of His authority.

Because of His healing
power, Jesus proves that He
can forgive. (5:17–26)



Theologically, (the Pharisees) relied on oral traditions and affirmed the doctrines of predestination, resurrection, and the immortality of the soul.

Sociologically, they were respected by the people of the land. Politically, they were relatively conservative in their attempts to protect the customs of their ancestors.

The main problem in a person's life is never his suffering; it's his sin. Sin is ignoring God in the world He has made; it's rebelling against Him by living without reference to Him. It's saying, "I will decide exactly how I live my life."

Tim Keller

His ultimate need was not healing from God but holiness before God.

Better to limp into heaven than run into hell! Paralysis is nothing compared to God's punishment. Our main need is spiritual forgiveness.

Thabiti Anyabwile

Jesus has the authority to read our hearts, to heal our sicknesses, and to forgive our sins.

David Platt

Our real problem is that every one of us is building our identity on something besides Jesus. We're saying, "If I have that, if I get my deepest wish, then everything will be okay." If you never quite get it, you're angry, unhappy, empty. But if you do get it, you ultimately feel more empty, more unhappy. Jesus says, "If you have Me, I will actually fulfill you, and if you fail Me, I will always forgive you. I'm the only Savior who can do that." Almost always when we first go to Jesus saying, "This is my deepest wish," His response is that we need to go a lot deeper than that. It wasn't wrong for the paralytic to want to walk. The fact that he (and we) thought that getting our deepest wish would heal us, would save us — *that was the problem.*

At that moment Jesus had the power to heal the man's body, just as He has the power to give you that career success, that relationship, that recognition you've been longing for. He actually has the power and authority to give each of us what we've been asking for, on the spot, no questions asked. But Jesus knows that's not nearly deep enough. He knows that whether we're a paralyzed man lying on a mat or a struggling actor or a former struggling actor who's become a celebrity, we don't need someone who can just grant our wishes. We need someone who will pierce our self-centeredness and remove the sin that enslaves us and distorts even our beautiful longings. In short, we need to be forgiven. It will take more than a miracle worker or a divine genie — it will take a Savior. Jesus is not going to play the rotten practical joke of giving you your deepest wish — until He has shown you that it was for Him all along.

Because He is the
God-Man, Jesus...



Do you believe that your sin and forgiveness of it is your greatest need? Or do you think that the present circumstances and struggles you face are the most important things in life?

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He lived in our flesh to offer God the righteous obedience we owed. He died in our place as an offering to satisfy the wrath of God against our sin.

Thabiti Anyabwile

God raised Him from the grave to prove His sacrifice was accepted. Now God calls men everywhere to repent of their sin and seek His forgiveness by placing their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Thabiti Anyabwile

Jesus is looking for people
willing to confess their need
and profess His identity.

