



4/29/26

*I always try to think of something of value to write to you in the opening greeting when I send these emails. Do you ever just have one of those days that your mind just won't think of anything? This is one of those days for me. So rather than write a bunch of stuff that probably has no meaning, I'll just get on to the reason you're here... the passage. Of course, now you've just read a whole paragraph of meaningless sentences. Oops. 🤦 I guess I can open with Paul's greetings in many of his letters... "Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Luke 5:17-26*

*I am truly learning that the greater blessing and miracle from God is NOT the physical healing He does in a person's life, but the spiritual. The physical is only temporary. The spiritual is eternal. I see this in today's passage.*

*Luke wrote, not as an eyewitness of the gospel accounts, but as a meticulous doctor who researched and studied, and who allowed the Holy Spirit to lead him in order to give an accurate account of Jesus' life on earth. So here, in this passage, he tells of a physical experience that proved the deeper spiritual impact on a soul.*

*It was one of the myriads of days when Jesus would teach anyone who wanted to listen. On this particular day, Pharisees and teachers of the law came from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem to hear what Jesus had to say. They were sitting there... probably not to actually be changed by His words, but to be judges of His words in order to discredit Him. He was fine with that. He knew who He was and He would not let their opinions affect His attitude or actions.*

*It says, "And the power of the Lord was with Him to heal." This is so cool. It's a picture for me of what Philippians 2 says about Him, that "He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but He emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant." The power of the Holy*

*Spirit rested on Him. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was healing. Jesus is my example in every way.*

*So... behold... check it out... some men carried a paralyzed friend to present him to Jesus for healing. But the crowd was too thick and they couldn't get him to the door. So they took it upon themselves to carry him to the top of the house where Jesus was speaking, remove tiles from the roof, and lower the man down to Jesus while still lying on his bed!*

*I can only imagine the disruption and stir that must have taken place... and the smile on Jesus' face as He celebrated the incredible faith of the man and the guys who lowered him down to Jesus.*

*The stir was even bigger when Jesus said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." I wonder what the paralyzed man thought at that moment. I hope it was, "Praise God! Even if I remain paralyzed the rest of my life, I know that I will spend eternity with Jesus, having been forgiven of my sins!!!" I hope it wasn't what might have come to MY mind, "Well, that's great, Jesus. But what are You gonna do about my legs?" 🙏 I hope that man understood the enormity of what Jesus said to him. Truly, what does it matter if I can walk, but I don't have Jesus as my Savior? What does anything matter if Jesus is not my Savior who forgives the debt of my sin?*

*Well, I don't know what the man was thinking, but I do know what the Pharisees and scribes were thinking. They didn't say it out loud, but they were questioning, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Boys, it's only blasphemy if it ain't true.*

*Jesus PERCEIVED THEIR THOUGHTS... That should have been the first clue that HE IS GOD!!! Jesus answered their unspoken questions with, "Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.'"*

*What was the look on the Pharisees and scribes' faces when Jesus spoke to their silent questions? Was there a lot clearing of the throats? Were they all looking at Jesus with wide eyes while trying to nonchalantly point fingers at the others? I don't know. But here's what I do know. Jesus told that man to rise, pick up his bed, and go home. And that man stood up, picked up his bed, and went home GLORIFYING GOD. How do I know his sins were forgiven? Not just because he was healed, but because he GLORIFIED GOD.*

*There are some who just want the physical healing... like the man at the pool of Bethesda who seemingly had no interest in glorifying God. But the life that is truly changed forever is the one who trusts God to forgive sins.*

*Some people are too blind, too deceived, to receive God's forgiveness and then make it their new purpose in life to glorify Him. I look at the Pharisees and scribes... These were people who KNEW the Old Testament law and prophecies. They could have easily acknowledged how Jesus*

*fulfilled the prophecies about the Messiah. Here they traveled from miles around to see Jesus in action. They even saw Him heal a man. And they just tried to explain Him away and call Him a blasphemer. How sad. I know that these men weren't among the people who glorified God in amazement. Or if they did, it was temporary. It was the Pharisees and scribes who ultimately paid Judas to betray Jesus.*

*But the rest of the crowd who saw Jesus heal that man was amazed. And they also glorified God. Matthew's account of this event shows me that they still didn't understand who Jesus was. Matthew 9:8 says the crowd was amazed by Jesus, and even in awe... but it says, "They glorified God who had given such authority TO MEN." They didn't understand that Jesus was the God man who came to take away the sins of the world.*

*O Lord, I pray that I will have such a deep understanding of You and Your eternal purpose that I will be grateful for whatever blessing and temporary healing You give me... but even more than that, I pray that I will live in constant amazement and gratitude for the eternal blessing and eternal healing You've given me through faith in Jesus. Please help me not to come to You with a plan to prove You wrong. Please let me not just treat You as a man who did cool things. But help me to come in genuine humility and trust. Let the evidence of my faith in You be shown in the way I seek to glorify You in all I do. I read this quote from Andrew Murray's book, *Absolute Surrender*, and it is my prayer, "Lord God, by Your grace, I desire to do Your will in everything, every moment of every day. Lord God, not a word upon my tongue, but for Your glory, not a movement of my body or emotions, but for Your glory, not an affection of love or hate in my heart but for Your glory, and according to Your blessed will." O Lord, please make it so!*