



Lent reflection for Tuesday, March 14th

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Luke 5:17-26

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. Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying 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 middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven you.' Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, 'Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?' When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven you", or to say, "Stand 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 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.'

Today's reflection is by Julia Gannon

This passage inspired me to reflect on the concept of doubt. Like the Pharisees, scribes, and teachers of the law, so many of us are so quick to doubt and discredit Jesus' gift of forgiveness. The passage says, "Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, 'Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?'"

I find myself often fighting the impulse to sow seeds of doubt in my life. I can doubt people's intentions, my friends' patience, and I can even be my own worst enemy with self doubt in my abilities and talents. All uniquely human struggles that I know many of my friends and peers experience. This passage particularly resonates by showing Jesus come face to face with those plagued in doubt. Never once does Jesus waiver in the face of others' doubt. He stays true to his mission and forgives the sins of the paralyzed man and those who doubt his ability to forgive at all. This expression of ultimate calm, confidence, and never before experienced abilities of God himself are the catalysts that bring many new followers to his word.

I hope to take a bit of that confidence of self Jesus so beautifully personifies in this passage and let it steep into my own heart. I know it will be instrumental in guiding me to my own purpose along my walk with God.

Julia is a musical theatre writer living in Brooklyn with her precious pup, Cricket. She's been a member of the Holy Apostles community since early 2020 and enjoys singing with the Holy Apostles Choir.

