

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

Luke 5:17-26

by Don Falkos

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One day some Pharisees and experts in the Law were jam-packed into a house listening to Jesus teach. These men had come from all over Galilee and Judea, even from Jerusalem itself. The power of the Lord was with Jesus as he spoke.

Some local men came carrying a man on a mat. The man was paralyzed, completely unable to stand, let alone walk. They tried to take this paralytic inside to set him down in front of Jesus. But the house was so crowded they couldn't get in. So they carried him up onto the roof, removed some of the tiles, and lowered the man down on his mat into the midst of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw how much faith these men had, he said to the paralyzed man, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

The Pharisees and the experts in the Law were indignant, "Who does he think he is? This is blasphemy. Only God can forgive sins."

Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, "Which is easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Get up and walk'? But just so it's clear the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins..." Jesus then said to the paralyzed man, "Friend, get up, pick up your mat, and go home."

The man immediately stood, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone there was awestruck. They also praised God and at the same time experienced great fear. They said, "We have seen a tremendous miracle today."