

Seeing Jesus: Forgiving Sins
Luke 5:17-26
Sermon Outline

Introduction: Our most fundamental problem is inside us. This is why Jesus invites us to come to him for forgiveness even before he invites us to come to him for healing.

I) Why forgiveness?

A) Jesus did not at first give the paralytic what he asked for.

B) Evidence for sin being the deepest problem

- From our experience
- From God's perspective

C) Do we see things this way?

II) Why can/must Jesus forgive?

A) He has the authority to forgive.

B) Where does Jesus' authority come from?

- He is the offended party
- He has borne the judgment

III) Take aways

A) Be patient

B) Bring your friends to Jesus

Questions for discussion and reflection this week

- 1) The Bible teaches that God's forgiveness, and the reconciliation to him that flows from that forgiveness, is what we and our world need the most. The culture around us often does not agree. List at least three "what-we-need-the-most" alternatives. Why these? In what ways do we as Christians live as if one or more of these needs are supreme?
- 2) What evidence exists to prove that reconciliation with God is what people really do need the most?
- 3) This story teaches that in Jesus we have a man, someone who knows our situation and has been tempted as we are, who has God's authority to pronounce us forgiven of our sins. This means that we can hear from him a verdict that no other court can overturn, for God's court is the most supreme of all. Reflect on this reality in the light of Romans 8:31-39. Spend some time praying.
- 4) On what basis can Jesus pronounce the forgiveness of our sins? Answer both with respect to who he is (as you do so reflect on the Pharisee's criticism of his forgiveness of the paralytic) and to what he has done.
- 5) Reflect on the following: There may be a gap in time between the moment when Jesus forgives you and the moment when all your circumstances will be transformed for the better. But take heart, the first guarantees the second in due time.
- 6) The paralytic's friends went to great lengths to bring him to Jesus. Discuss and make a plan for ways that you might do this more vigorously for at least one friend.