

**Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)**

**Luke 5: 17-26**

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the Bible again. We're continue reading Luke Chapter 5 and today we will read verses 17 to 26.

In the way Luke arranges each event, there is actually a connecting thread running through them. When we read the Scriptures, if we are willing to put in a little thought and are able to find this thread, we can enter into the author's mind and see what he truly wants to say to us.

**Verse 17: "Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them."**

Jesus had already begun His public ministry. Because He healed the sick, cast out demons, and preached with great power, many people came to listen to Him and to follow Him. Among these crowds, however, there were also some who came with impure motives. Who were they? The Pharisees and the teachers of the law. In the Gospel of Matthew, they are usually referred to as Pharisees and scribes, since "scribes" was a term commonly used among the Jews. Luke, however, wrote his Gospel so that Gentiles could also understand it, so he used the term teachers of the law—that is, teacher of the law or doctor of the law.

Where did these people come from? Scripture tells us that they came from villages throughout Galilee, from Judea, and even from Jerusalem. In the early stage of Jesus' ministry, most of His work took place in Galilee, especially centered around Capernaum. By this time, His reputation had spread widely. Not only did people

come from the surrounding villages of Galilee, but some also came from Judea, and even from the great city of Jerusalem.

These people did not come with good intentions; they came to observe what Jesus was doing, hoping to find something against Him. As a result, whenever Jesus preached, He was surrounded by crowds. The Scripture says, “And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.”

**Verse 18: “Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him.”**

In Mark chapter 2, it is recorded very clearly that four people carried this paralytic. This paralytic had four very close friends. When they heard that Jesus could heal the sick and cast out demons, they came to Jesus on behalf of their friend. Because their friend was paralyzed and unable to walk, they carried him on a mat, brought him before Jesus, and asked Jesus to heal him.

**Verse 19: “And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.”**

“But because of the crowd, they could not find how they might bring him in” — in fact, this is also one of the reasons Jesus often withdrew from the crowds. When Jesus preached, healed the sick, and cast out demons with great power, many people followed Him out of curiosity, or even with a spectator’s mentality. These people themselves did not receive any real benefit from the gospel, yet they became obstacles to those who truly needed healing, truly needed to hear the word, and were genuinely willing to follow God.

Because of the crowd, the four friends were unable to carry the paralytic inside. As Luke records, “When they could not find how they might bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through

the tiling into the midst before Jesus. His friends were truly people of action. At that time, houses had flat roofs, and straw or similar materials were often laid on top, so removing part of the roof was not especially difficult. Still, this was not their own house—they had come seeking help. Because there were too many people blocking the way, they could not get in. They exerted great effort, carried the paralytic up onto the roof, removed part of the roof, and lowered the paralytic down through the opening, placing him right in front of Jesus.

If they had not been fully convinced that Jesus was able to heal this paralytic, they would never have gone to such lengths—exerting tremendous effort, even dismantling someone else’s roof, which would later require compensation. Most commentators believe that this house was Peter’s house. Since Peter had already left everything to follow Jesus, there likely was no issue of property dispute. Nevertheless, what they did was clearly an action that went beyond normal conventions.

**Verse 20: “When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”**

This passage is very striking. What Jesus saw was not the faith of the paralytic alone, but their faith. In other words, his friends had such great faith that they were willing to carry the paralytic up onto the roof and lower him down through the house. What Jesus saw was the faith of this whole group of people concerning the healing of the sick. As a result, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Man, your sins are forgiven you”. Jesus did not say to him, “Your disease is healed,” as He said to the leper, “I am willing; be cleansed.”

On the one hand, this indicates that the paralytic’s condition may have been related to sin. On the other hand, it shows that what Jesus truly cared about was not merely the healing of his body; what Jesus cared about even more was dealing with the fundamental problem of sin. As a result, because there was a group of people present before Jesus who had come merely to watch, to be spectators, and who

harbored ill intentions, the situation immediately became tense and confrontational.

**Verse 21: “And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, ‘Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’”**

These scribes and Pharisees came before Jesus with impure motives from the very beginning. Their intention was to scrutinize Him, to observe closely what He was doing. When they heard Jesus say to the paralytic, “Man, your sins are forgiven you”, they immediately began reasoning in their hearts, saying that He had spoken blasphemy, because in their understanding, only God can forgive sins. In this understanding, they were not wrong. Indeed, only God has the authority to forgive sins. However, what they failed to recognize was that the seemingly ordinary Son of Man standing before them—Jesus—is the Son of God Himself.

**Verse 22-23: “But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, ‘Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk?’”**

I believe that for these scribes and Pharisees, both were difficult. But if one must say which was more difficult, it was probably picking up the mat and walking, because that is something everyone could see. Saying, “Your sins are forgiven,” is abstract and invisible; others might not even know whether it had truly happened.

**Verse 24: “But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins—He said to the man who was paralyzed, ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’”**

Jesus spoke to these scribes and Pharisees in order to let them know that He is the Son of Man on earth, and that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins. How

could they see that He had the authority to forgive sins? He told the man to rise, take up his mat, and go home. He caused the paralytic to stand up immediately in front of everyone, pick up his mat, and walk home. To us, this was the healing of a disease; but to Jesus, He said that this was the forgiveness of his sins.

**Verse 25: “Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.”**

Jesus’ healings are always immediate and complete. This paralytic, lying on his mat, was healed instantly by just one word from Jesus. After receiving his healing, he gave glory to God.

**Verse 26: “And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, ‘We have seen strange things today!’”**

When Jesus healed and cast out demons on earth, what He was truly addressing was humanity’s fundamental problem: the forgiveness of sins. This goes back to the beginning—because humanity’s first ancestor, Adam, sinned in the Garden of Eden, sin entered into mankind. And because sin entered, death followed. So, when people came for physical healing, Jesus actually went back to the root cause, which is that sin must first be forgiven.

Before the Pharisees and teachers of the law, Jesus publicly demonstrated that the Son of Man on earth has the authority to forgive sins. And because sins are forgiven, the body could then be healed. This principle underlies all miracles, even today. Many believers may have physical or emotional struggles and long for healing. When we come before Jesus, He takes us to the root of the issue: first, our sins must be forgiven.

Jesus came to earth to bear the sins of humanity and walk the path of the cross. Today, through what He accomplished, we can acknowledge our sins and unite with His death on the cross, knowing that the penalty for all sin has been borne by Jesus.

Standing on the ground of forgiveness of sins, we can then pray for healing—physical, emotional, or mental. The purpose is not only to heal us but to bring glory to God, so that those around us, including brothers and sisters in Christ and even unbelieving friends and relatives, can see God’s glory.

Therefore, healing is not merely a physical matter—it is spiritual, rooted in the forgiveness of sins. We are called to acknowledge our sins before God, allowing them to be forgiven. On this foundation, God can use our lives as a testimony to bring others to know Jesus.

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You. Through this passage, help us recognize that You have placed many seekers around us who need to know You. Lord, use me, and let the miracles displayed in my life show that my sins are forgiven. Let Your intervention in my life make me different. Through this testimony in my daily life, let those around me come to know You. Ultimately, may we all bring glory to You together. Bless my life so that it may become a testimony of the gospel. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!