

# YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

CMBC February 1, 2015 Communion

Luke 5:17 – 26

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This is a dramatic story that once you have heard it you will never forget. What helps us remember this story is the determination of the paralytic's friends to get him to Jesus, even going so far as to tear open the roof. The main truth in this story is one in which we learn what it means to be forgiven.

## 1. JESUS' WORDS, "You are forgiven."

### a. Words to a paralyzed man

- i. I am going to give him a name, **Theo**. That's easier than to keep referring to the "paralytic man".
- ii. Jesus' words to Theo is, "**Friend, your sins are forgiven.**"

### b. Jesus had never met Theo before

- i. Probably Theo had never met Jesus before
  1. His friends told him about the healing, about the teaching
  2. Theo had never seen healing from any of the spiritual leaders, Pharisees.
  3. Nor had he ever heard this kind of teaching from them.
  4. His friends said, "We will take you to Jesus."
  5. We will do whatever it takes to get you to Jesus – never been done before
  6. That is what has been done through the whole story of mankind.
    - a. Change.
    - b. Dramatic action.
    - c. Even God has done that.
- ii. Jesus first words to him were, "**Friend, your sins are forgiven.**"
  1. Theo came because he wanted physical healing. He probably never thought about this sin as his friends let him down through the roof.
    - Probably never thought about the spiritual healing he needed.
  2. Physical healing would help him for 30 – 40 years.
    - a. Spiritual healing would change him for eternity.

- b. Forgiveness was much more important than physical healing
- c. Jesus, the Man of God
  - i. For Jesus, the purpose of the healing was to convince the on-lookers, the Pharisees, us, that he **could** forgive sins.
  - ii. The Pharisees asked, “Who is this who speaks blasphemy? Only God can forgive sins.”
    - 1. This is God come as a man.
    - 2. This is Jesus, the Man of God.
  - iii. We have heard from the prophets that God forgives sins, but does he, will he? Where really is the evidence.
  - iv. Here is God in the flesh declaring that he forgives sin and has proven that by healing Theo from his paralysis.
  - v. Today we hold on to this because we have seen the evidence.
    - 1. God does forgive sins
    - 2. This is who we remember when we take the bread at the Lords Table.
- d. The sins Jesus forgave
  - i. What sins of Theo did Jesus forgive?
    - 1. Did Jesus know? Probably.
    - 2. Did Theo know?
    - 3. His list probably would have been too long to record. It would have included the sins he didn't even know he committed, the sins others may have noticed but that Theo didn't even realize he had committed.
    - 4. How could Jesus forgive without going over the list with Theo? Isn't this too easy GRACE?
  - ii. The list wasn't the issue.
    - 1. His known sins were only the evidence of the root of his sins – of our sin, our relationship with God
    - 2. Not allowing God to be in control of every part of our life
  - iii. When God said, “**Thou shalt have no other gods before me,**” he was referring to the things in life that we trust in rather than trusting in God. The things that direct our behaviour, rather than letting God direct our behaviour.
  - iv. The Pharisees, standing in the room with Jesus and Theo, very meticulously kept all of the commandments.
    - 1. But Jesus speaks more harshly to them than to Theo.

2. They looked at their list and not at their heart.
3. They didn't believe in forgiveness from Jesus. They believed in conformity to the commandments. They believed they didn't need forgiveness, because they believed they had kept all the commandments.
4. Their words to Theo would be, "You have to keep all the rules, as we do, then you can have faith in God."
5. They would have sent Theo home with a list of rules rather than a heart that knew he was forgiven and a passion to look to God to help him live a holy life.

Today you come to this table with a long list of sins you have committed. Some sins that you know you have committed and some sins that you haven't noticed yet.

You have no hope to get it all right. But you come with a heart that wants so much to live for the glory of God. Your only hope is that God by His grace will forgive your sins.

The words we read in this story of the paralytic man are the words Jesus has for you.

**"And when he saw their faith, (when he saw your faith), he said, "Friend your sins are forgiven."**

Let's sing together the Prayer Hymn #427 Dear Father of mankind, forgive our foolish way." Pastor Larry, come and lead us.

## **2. JESUS' WORK; "You are forgiven."**

Here is why Jesus could say to Theo, **"Friend, your sins are forgiven."** It is based on His death on the cross.

The Pharisees said, "Who are you to say, your sins are forgiven?"

But what Jesus, the Man of God, said and did to Theo, tells us that this was God the Son dying on the cross, paying the penalty of sin for us, making it possible for Him to forgive Theo's sins and our sins.

- a. Understanding the terrible ruin of sin

- i. None of us, not even the Pharisees can understand that terrible ruin and consequences of our sin
  - ii. We only get a glimpse of this when we realize that it took the Almighty God, the creator of the universe, to come as God the Son to die for our sin.
- b. Connecting Jesus' words to the cross
- i. The words that Jesus spoke to Theo "your sins are forgiven" only is truth because of the cross.
  - ii. The words Jesus spoke to the thief on the cross beside him, "Today you will be with me in paradise," was only the truth because of the cross.
  - iii. The words Jesus spoke on the cross, "Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing," was only possible because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.
    - 1. Jesus said "They don't know what they are doing," not only for the people killing him that day,
    - 2. Jesus said that even for Theo who really didn't know how terrible his sin was
    - 3. Jesus said that for us
- c. What it means to be truly forgiven
- i. Theo put his trust in Jesus with little idea of what it cost Jesus to be able to say those words
  - ii. We put our trust in Jesus, and we also don't understand all that we have done and all that God has done.

But because of the shed blood on the cross, we can trust the words of Jesus, the Son of God, when he says, "Friends, your sins are forgiven."

Listen as the choir sings about the cross.