

## **DISCUSSION GUIDE: Luke 5:17-26**

### **October 8, 2017**

During our hiatus from the book of Romans, we studied the story of the paralytic man in Luke 5:17-26. This is a beautiful story of faith, forgiveness, and God's sovereignty. We may be tempted to focus on the amazing healing of the paralytic and miss the focus of the passage – the just God forgives unjust sinners!

1. Luke opens this section by describing the house in which Jesus was teaching. He goes on to say that the crowd listening to him was so crowded that the only way to get access to Jesus was to come through the roof!

- As you picture a group of people (somehow) bringing a paralytic man onto a roof, creating a hole in said roof, and lowering a greatly disabled man down in front of Jesus, think about your faith. In what way could you practice extreme faith like these men?
- Think about the fact that they are going through great lengths to bring this man *to Jesus*. Does the picture of these men going to this great length for the paralytic man encourage you to minister to your fellow brothers and sisters?

2. Next we see the great plot twist. The disabled man does not receive healing, but forgiveness of sins!

- Read Mark 8:36-37. What does this part of the story and the verses you just read tell us about what we think is most important, compared to what God thinks is most important?
- Sometimes, we emphasize things in our lives at the detriment of our souls. What are some things that you emphasize over your sanctification? What are some ways you correct your trajectory?

3. Finally, we are shown the majestic authority and power of God. He not only reads minds, but he heals paralytics!

- Notice Jesus' reason for healing the paralytic "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." What does this imply about the healing?
- Though Jesus has a reason for healing this man, remember one obvious point – Jesus heals this man! What does that say about our loving Savior?
- In what way does the answer to the previous question encourage your walk with God?