



# “Breaking through the Barriers to Friendship”

Luke 5:17-26

## SERMON NOTES

Record your insights and observations from this week’s sermon:

## A WORD FROM MIKE...

We are continuing our study of discipleship using the gospel of Luke and UPC’s Nine Marks of a Transformed Life. The Nine Marks describe a mature disciple as someone who:

1. Enjoys God in worship
2. Engages in God’s Word (the Bible) through study & prayer
3. Lives by God’s promises
4. Applies the gospel of grace in relationships
5. Invests time & energy in a small group of friends
6. Fulfills his/her church membership vows
7. Exercises his/her gifts & passions in all of life
8. Practices Biblical principles of financial stewardship
9. Shares his/her faith in word and deed

This week’s study focuses on mark #5. Let’s think about community and what it requires.



## KNOWING GOD

a) Read Luke 5:17-26. What does this story have to say about the human predicament?

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b) The first thing Jesus says to the paralyzed man on the mat is “Friend, your sins are forgiven” (vs. 20). Why does Jesus address the man’s spiritual need before he addresses his physical condition?

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c) How does the physical healing that takes place in verses 24-25 serve the spiritual healing of verse 20?

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d) What are some practical implications of the statement in verse 24 that “the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”?

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## GROWING TOGETHER

a) What do you learn about community in this story?

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b) Are you more likely to carry someone else’s mat for them or to allow someone else to help carry yours? Why?<sup>1</sup>

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c) Do you have some mat carriers in your life? If you were in trouble, whom would you call for help?

<sup>1</sup> This and other questions in this week’s study guide are adapted from John Ortberg, *Everybody’s Normal Till You Get to Know Them*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003, pgs. 44-62.

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## SERVING OTHERS

a) John Ortberg writes, “The requirement for true intimacy is chunks of unhurried time.”<sup>2</sup> How does your daily and weekly schedule affect your experience of community? What would it take to create more unhurried time in your life?

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b) Notice the reaction of the religious leaders to the healing of the paralytic (vs. 21). Why did they choose to focus on Jesus’ alleged blasphemy rather than the man’s spiritual healing? Is there a lesson there for us at UPC?

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c) What barriers to true friendship do you see in the culture of east Orlando? What must you do to break through them?

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<sup>2</sup> Ortberg, pg. 46.