

# The Gospel According to Luke- Part 2

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## A PARALYZED MAN WALKS

PART 1

*The Power of the Lord*

**READ: MARK 2:1-17**

### INTRODUCTION

*This passage, which is mirrored in Luke 5:17-26, deals with a man who desires to be healed of his physical maladies and gets much more than that. Jesus had His normal response to throngs of people surrounding Him which was to begin to minister to them. Instead of complaining or running away, He allows them into the house where He was staying and starts to teach them the Word and heal them of their sickness. It is interesting that this is Jesus' "go-to" response when dealing with people. He doesn't turn them away and He doesn't try to hide from them. He ministers to them and allows them to come to Him.*

*This man who is lowered down from the ceiling must've been very excited to be seeing someone who was capable of healing him. Then, Jesus says that his sins would be forgiven and that was strange because that was not why he was there. He was there for a miracle, not for something that no one could see or experience. He wanted to walk again. The truth is, we sometimes seek out answers or miracles from God and are surprised by the answer that is given. We want one thing and think that we know what that thing is and, when God gives us what we really need, we are shocked.*

*God is concerned with our spiritual standing. Jesus was more concerned with this man's sin than He was about his ability to walk. This is where Jesus always goes, to our spiritual standing. That is because, without a correct spiritual standing before the Father, we are doomed to judgement and punishment. (Mark 8:36-37) We must understand that, while our physical health is important, it is not more important than our spiritual health. Jesus, in this moment, wanted to bless this man far more than just the regaining of his ability to walk. He wanted to save him from eternal punishment. This is a huge example that is set for us and one that we must remember as we pursue God. He wants us to be clean and healthy in the spiritual sense. That is what matters the most.*

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

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### *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

1. Read Luke 5:17-26. What differences do you see in these two passages? What similarities? Is there encouragement we can take from the similar ways this story is recounted? What is that encouragement?
2. Why did Jesus not try to rest? What was His motivation for serving the people? How can we translate that desire into our own lives?
3. What do you think were the thoughts of the man who was lowered down? Would he have been encouraged or discouraged by the words that Jesus spoke to him? Why?
4. When is a time that you have expected one thing from the Lord and gotten something completely different? Do you know why He gave you something you didn't even think about? What was your response to Him in the moment versus after some time had passed?
5. Read Mark 8:34-38. How does this passage help us remain focused on God's purpose for us and not our own? What do you think this passage means for us when we are desiring a specific thing from God? How can He use this passage to help us in our daily lives?

### *WRAP UP*

Jesus will always be concerned with our spiritual health above anything else in our lives. This can be difficult for us in the moment but, when we are able to understand the purpose of that attitude, it allows us to be joyful in the care that He takes for us to be able to spend an eternity with Him. It also helps us understand that there are times when "thorns in the flesh" are important for our growth and maturity. We desire to serve Him and we know that He desires to take care of us. It is good to note that He still healed the paralyzed man. Jesus does care about our physical health as well.