

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020 10 am

The paralysed man

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Online service sheet during the coronavirus.

Reading Psalm 146

Reading Luke 5:17-26, (Matthew 13:44,45)

Sermon Title: **That you may know**

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at [www.knbc.org](http://www.knbc.org).

The audio file is [20\\_07\\_05.mp3](#) in the sermons directory

Reflective prayer what does this mean for me Lord.....

Close -----

## Welcome

Welcome to you again to KNBC. We are really looking forward to being able to meet together again. That day should be coming soon, keep an eye on [www.knbc.org](http://www.knbc.org) for more info.. on this. This morning we are looking at Jesus as he meets the paralysed man. It is found in Luke 5:17-26. Pray

- Are you a Star Wars fan? in: [The Empire Strikes Back](#) there is perhaps the greatest movie bombshell of all time. Luke Skywalker is fighting the evil looking protagonist Darth Vader for killing his father and as they are fighting Darth Vader says to him "No I am your father".

It was least expected - life has some shock discoveries. Have you had any?

- A good friend of ours had a phone call like that. This friend hears a woman's voice in the line say "I am your sister"! What! I don't have a sister. Yes you do have a sister, now you know. Wow

Phew what a shock. What does it mean you ask? Yet for all its impact, in the big scheme of things they are just not that important. There is a discovery that is much more important, is more profound, and is more long lasting in its consequences. That is being able to see clearly just who Jesus is.

Jesus, by far the most significant man in history begs us to ask the question "who is he"?, "just who is he"? Have you asked that? Jesus's ministry on earth is all about answering that question, and many have made the great discovery. Why is there such variety in the people and situations that we find Jesus in? Because they all show us – He wants you and I to discover - something different about Jesus.

- Like looking at an object from different sides; same object, different view. Sometimes one view is not enough, like that close up puzzle suddenly we can see what the object is

Here Jesus tells us in v24: **that you may know** x2 and what is that we should know? That Jesus can forgive sins. x2 We have seen Jesus heal the body but here Jesus forgives a man his sin. What does that say about Jesus?

There are some listening who don't see, I have prayed that you will see - see Jesus clearly. There is a line around your life that separates what you know from what you don't know. May that change today. Are you ready to look?

This morning we have four 'p's:

Powerless, Powerful, Persuaded, Persistent. Yes there are four groups: the Powerless paralytic, (another p, 'p' are good), the Powerful Christ, those watching; the Proud and the Persuaded, and finally the Persistent friends.

### *(Intro/background)*

But first let's come to this episode of Jesus meeting the paralysed man. Although we read Luke's account, as is often the case it is more colourfully recorded by Mark, (the shortest gospel but the fuller detail) so I read: **So many gathered, no room left, not even outside the door, Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. ...they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralysed man was lying on.**

Luke adds **through the tiles - into the middle of the crowd, - right in front of Jesus**

Can you see the packed room? Mixed into the crowds are some religious leaders who have come to investigate. Jesus is in the middle, all eyes look up to the ceiling as a hole appears, bringing plaster showering down, shafts of bright light penetrate the darkness, you hear gasps as the wildly swinging stretcher threatens to deposit the man at Jesus' knees before time.

So we come to the first of our characters, the unnamed paralysed man

### *Powerless*

'powerless' is that a good description of him?, he is paralysed so he cannot move his arms or legs, nor it seems even speak. He cannot work or take his place in society, he is dependent on others. He is poor, he can do nothing. Yes he is powerless. He could feel useless, he may well see his life as meaningless. He has probably concluded it is hopeless.

He is powerless over his movements, he just lies there. What happens to him is decided by others. He is powerless to change or help himself. Miserable.

But He is before Jesus Christ - who is powerful

### *Powerful*

Not just because he is popular, (at the moment), or because people gather to hear him and his influence is growing.

Yes people have seen his power, his power over health as he healed the sick, his power over the spirit world by banishing evil spirits, and his power over nature when he calmed the raging storm to name a few.

But here he wants you and I to discover something more. And for this the particular scene is set and all the players in place.

In Matthew's account it follows the healing of the demon possessed man, in Mark and Luke Jesus cures a man of his leprosy. So here with the paralysed man why doesn't Jesus heal him as he did them, - and so many others?

What is different here? This time he says **"Friend, your sins are forgiven."** x2

Christ gives the paralytic something different from what he came for:

You may ask how is he a sinner? What can a paralysed man do?

Or you may ask, "What's the connection between sin and suffering"? Or as you think of your own situation - *what have I done to deserve this?*

Is there a connection between sin and suffering? Yes there is. The link is only sometimes clear between an illness and a particular sin. But get to the bottom of things and every sickness - and all suffering, whatever form it takes - is ultimately the result of sin. Since Adam and Eve sinned against God in the garden of Eden sin and sickness, suffering and death entered the world. They are part of God's curse on this world for sin.

**Sin is in my heart – it's not just an action, - suffering and death are the just penalties from a Holy God.**

Yet, however terrible the sickness or suffering is - and it can be horrific - sin is worse - for it is the ultimate cause of it. God is pure and holy: **Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.** Hab 1:13

God's holiness shows sin to be the terrible offence that it is. Sin is utterly sinful. Paul speaks about the **sinfulness of sin**.

God will one day rightly judge and banish all who sin to hell, a real place already prepared. His character demands it. To punish the sinner is fully consistent with his justice and holiness. *Don't lose me here...*

God as creator is also the lawgiver. He can only deal with his creation on the basis of this law as it reflects his divine character of holiness.

Putting this simply; How God deals with you is dependent on you keeping his Holy Law. Keep the law and you are in his favour, blessed. Break the law and you act contrary to his character and therefore he cannot bless you, you are cursed. He cannot bless a lawbreaker. Bad news for me and for you!

For God to act otherwise he needs to see you as a perfect law keeper. That is why Christ is so important, Christ perfectly kept God's law loving God with all his being all of the time – something you and I have not done. Then he who had no sin became sin and suffered for it on the cross taking the fall,

the punishment - and satisfying God's justice. Now for me to be acceptable and blessed I need to be considered as a law keeper.

But Christ was and so in Him I can have righteousness another word for a perfect law keeper. He is the substitute I so desperately need!

So how can God bless lawbreakers like you and I? A. Through Jesus Christ. Now God can work outside of the constraints of his own character (law) and now through Christ accept and bestow favour (Grace) on those who have lived contrary to his law – as you and I all have. That is the good news.

✚ Now God the creator and lawgiver can forgive sins. *Hallelujah.*

What is the shock discovery? Jesus is God the creator and lawgiver. x2 That is why he can forgive sins. This episode with the crowd and paralysed man, and his pronouncement of forgiveness of sins is so that **you may know** This paralysed man so obviously bound by sickness and suffering is showing the mark of sin, the consequences of sin.

But Christ now declares "**Friend, your sins are forgiven.**" to show how he can deal with the root cause of sin and guilt by declaring him forgiven.

This powerless man, who says nothing, does nothing and is completely underserving freely receives x2 what he needs to be in God's favour.

#### Greatest need

What do you pray for? What do you ask of God? If he was to answer one prayer from you what would it be? Bodily health, financial health, husband, wife, family? Be relieved from my troubles?

Can you see from this passage what is best for you?

- Imagine discovering that you have cancer. You are in pain. So you go to the doctor, (assuming he will see you), and you ask "do you have something for my pain" how does that sound to you? This man is a fool. It's the cancer which is the cause of the pain, and will be the cause of his death – it's that which needs to be dealt with!

Jesus in forgiving him his sin shows the paralytic the origin of his disease. What good is it to seek God for healing of your body while remaining guilty and still be at war with God in your soul?

**What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?** Mt 16:26, Lu 9:25, Mr 8:37 Some say God has healed me of my illness? But, but ..don't be healthy yet and remain guilty. Remember Jesus's words: **"If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two**

**feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.** Mt 18:8,9

This is the prayer you must pray: **"Lord, Have mercy on me a sinner"** If you have not yet made your peace with him, that is only one prayer he will hear.

**In Christ there is power and there is pity grace enough for all who will come**

#### *The proud – and the persuaded*

Picture the scene, Jesus is standing in the middle and all around are in the crowd are the religious people. They've come to investigate, to censor, and in their jealousy pick up something with which they can accuse him.

There are those who come to church, where the gospel is preached, they don't come to *sit under* the word, but *sit by it!* It is to them as more an interesting story than a *message* sent to them from God. They like the preaching as long as it isn't something they need to act on.

**21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"**

They might appear nice people - but like the glass panel on the side of an engine in a museum Jesus can see what is going on inside. **22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?** Mark adds that **Jesus knew by his Spirit:** which means he saw what man cannot see and therefore could say **Why do you think evil?**

Are they frowning or smiling? We don't know. Inside they are thinking evil.

Why couldn't they rejoice in this fulfilment of the Prophets announcing the grace of God. In Daniel the 'Son of Man' is the one who comes with power, but these Bible teachers won't see it. Their hearts are too hard.

They had seen his power to heal but rather than praise God they accuse him of being evil. In their minds say *"Ahh we've got him on just the serious charge they had been looking for; blasphemy"*.

It is pride envy and jealousy; secret sins, they say nothing, they remain silent, but **think in their hearts**, God alone has **authority to forgive sins**. Their pride blinds them to the truth that God had promised to enter this world. They cannot see that actually before them is the one promised *God manifested in the flesh*.

There are many whose hard heart stops them from seeing clearly.

How about you? He knows your thoughts as well. Have you concluded He's not that important. Or do you now see the evidence and know He is God come to you to save & rescue you before you meet Him as you Judge on that Day.

Jesus in the midst, literally in the middle of the room has all around him examples of invisible sin in sinful man. Before him on a stretcher is one visible displayed of the results of sin in man. He is in a hopeless state – as they all are –the man is silent, nothing said, he couldn't. So are they and all who stand guilty before a holy God. In God's court I have no defense, I have nothing to say, I am guilty as charged.

Christ now says **24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....**"But that you may know that is the whole point of the episode **that you may know.**

**He said to the paralysed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."**  
**25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.**

The body is healed, the tongue is loosened and he as a forgiven and new man is full of praise. It is those freed from the paralysis of sin who open their mouths in praise. Does the Lord, and do others hear praise from your lips? Do your eyes see? does your tongue profess that Jesus Christ is Lord?

Will you? **Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today.**

While some in the crowd are proud and harbour evil thoughts - many others are persuaded - their eyes are opened and they give praise to God.

Finally those who came in faith

### *Persistent faith*

**20 When Jesus saw their faith,** x2 That is the man's four friends and himself.

Their Faith was reasonable This Faith in Jesus was not blind faith, they had the evidence. They had seen what Jesus had been doing "**15 Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses** They had seen the healing, yes it was reasonable based on what they knew, only fools do something without evidence, without good reason or act on impulse. They had faith, like the parents and guardians that brought their children to Jesus.

Almost all of you listening have had plenty of time to weigh the evidence. Do you now see Jesus Christ as the most Holy, pure man who has ever

walked this earth? If so does it humble you? Do you see you need him as a billion people across the world have?

Genuine faith has to be humble These four friends have a **humble faith**. They simply believed in their hearts that Jesus Christ can forgive and heal sinners. They simply came to Jesus believing he would receive them. They were not disappointed. Jesus can change things.

✚ **Finding Christ is much more important than the exam result, the school, college or university you want to go to. It's more important than your health, your looks, your clothes, your home and even more important than those you love.**

David says Ps 40:4 "**Blessed (happy) is the man who makes the LORD his trust**"

The faith of these men was practical. Their faith was not merely a sentiment which did not move them. True faith shows in your action. It sets to work determined to accomplish something. It is persistent.

And yes it needs to be persistent, because there are obstacles to overcome.

True faith is resourceful. There were difficulties in their path. The paralysed man can't move, they have to find a stretcher, they cannot enter the house. The way to the roof was no doubt difficult. There had to be a determination to dig through and reach the room below.

✚ **Seek after Jesus Christ, do not give up at the first obstacle. Persist, press in until you are sure you have found Jesus, He will receive you.**

When you find Christ you find rest, when you find Christ you know who you are, why you are here, where you are going, everything changes, - and it all starts with Forgiveness, something Christ alone can give you.

v16 says **But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**" Is this man the answer to that prayer? Will you be the answer to the prayers of those who pray for you? Who pray that you will, like them see who Jesus is, and find that great treasure. Like the man who found the treasure in the field and went off to sell everything to have it.

We've had - The Powerless and the Powerful, the Persuaded, the Persistent.

■ **Luke Skywalker was fighting. Are you a fighter? Stop fighting God, Turn to his Son Jesus Christ and you will hear the voice that says "I am your father"**

Jesus Christ is the same now, today trust him now. Put your faith in him now, He knows all about your situation, If you trust him he will bring you through it, and make you his - and you will be His for all eternity. \_\_\_\_END