

“Who Can Forgive Sins But God Alone?”

Sermon Notes

When sin prevents us from living a life pleasing to God, we need...

1. _____ from a community of believers.
(verses 17-19)

2. _____ from the Lord, the one mediator between
God and man. (verses 20-24)

3. a fresh _____ in life, allowing us to place
ourselves entirely at the disposal of His will.
(verses 25-26)

Next Week: Luke 5:27-32 – “I Have Not Come to Call the Righteous”

Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of May 28th – June 3rd

Please read Luke 5:17-26.

1. In verse 18, Luke mentions that "the power of the Lord was with him to heal."
 - a. Isn't Jesus the Lord? Could the power to heal have been intermittent? Please explain your answer. (See Luke 4:23)

2. In verse 20, Jesus tells the paralyzed man that his sins are forgiven because of "their faith."
 - a. What is the difference between faith and belief? (See Luke 8:25) Faith and works?
 - b. Who showed faith in Christ in this episode?
 - c. What faith did the men in this episode have?
 - d. Did others in the crowd have faith in Jesus' ability to heal? Please explain.
 - e. Who was forgiven?
 - f. Do you think the man had done something wrong that led to his paralysis? Please explain.

3. The scribes and Pharisees did not believe that Jesus had the power to forgive sins. (See verse 21)
 - a. Was Jesus saying that God had forgiven the man's sins? Or that he, himself, had forgiven the man's sins? Please explain.
 - b. Why would the Pharisees think that it was blasphemous for Jesus to tell the man that his sins had been forgiven?
 - c. Did Jesus claim the power to forgive sins here? Please explain. (See also Luke 7:46-50) Could the first part of verse 24, "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" be a comment by Luke to the reader? Please explain.
 - d. What are the implications of Jesus' designation as "Son of Man"? (See Daniel 7:13-14)
 - e. Would it have been right for Jesus to tell the man that his sins were forgiven if he were not divine? Please explain.
 - f. Do you think this is why the Pharisees had trouble accepting Jesus' ministry? Please explain.

4. Jesus asks the Pharisees which is easier, to say "your sins are forgiven" or "get up and walk"?
 - a. Do you think it is easier to say "your sins are forgiven"? Why or why not?
 - (1). Is this a distinction between what is easier to say and what is easier to do? Please explain.
 - (2). Does that mean saying something is so doesn't make it so? Please explain.
 - b. Do you think it is easier to say "get up and walk"? Why or

why not?

(1). Is forgiveness a greater miracle than healing? Please explain.

(2). Has there been physical healing before in the Bible?

(3). Has anyone in the Bible previously claimed the ability to forgive sins?

c. Do you think that both are impossible for a man? Please explain.

5. Jesus claims that his command to the man to get up and walk proves that he has the authority to forgive sins. (verse 24)

a. Do you think that by proving that he could do the more difficult thing (healing) he indicated that he could do what was less difficult (granting forgiveness)? Please explain.

b. Do you think that by proving that he could do what could not be refuted (the healing) he indicated God's concurrence with his ability to forgive sins, which could be refuted? Please explain.

7. In verse 26, Luke says that "astonishment seized everyone and they were praising God and they were filled with fear."

a. Did this include the man who was healed? Why or why not? (See verse 25)

b. Do you think this included the Pharisees and scribes? Why or why not?