

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Ten

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING (5): HEALING THE PARALYTIC

Burden to Impart:

Because of sin all men are like paralytics; they cannot move or walk before God in a way that is pleasing to Him. Only the Lord Jesus can heal us, for He is God. He does this firstly by forgiving our sins and secondly by speaking His healing word to us, enabling us to rise up and walk in such a way that glorifies God.

Memory Verse: "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Psalm 32:1).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 5:17-26]

1. The healing of the paralytic provided a strong proof and demonstration to the Pharisees and teachers of the law that the Lord Jesus was not only a teacher of God's Word, or a healer with God's divine power, He was the very forgiving God Himself.

2. Paralysis causes weakness to the muscles, making the sick person unable to move or walk. This illness shows us one of the many spiritual side effects of sin. Sin (which every man suffers from) makes us unable to walk and behave properly before God. Instead of walking uprightly before God for His pleasure and the fulfillment of His purpose, all sinful men live for their own satisfaction and pleasure. Therefore they are "paralyzed" as far as God is concerned.

3. The paralyzed man did not come to the Lord Jesus by his own strength or power, for he had none. He came to the Lord because some of his friends greatly loved him and had faith that the Lord could and would heal him.

4. Their faith was so great and they were so desperate for their paralyzed friend to be healed, that they did something "wild" when they couldn't enter the house because of the great crowd of people. They broke up the tiles in the roof and lowered the man down to Jesus.

5. The Lord Jesus did not firstly cure the man's paralysis. He firstly cured the cause of his paralysis, his sin. The Lord Jesus did what no other man could do, He forgave his sins. Only Jesus, the kingly Savior, who had been authorized by God as the Son of Man and who would die to redeem sinners, has "authority on earth to forgive sins."

6. The Lord's salvation not only forgives us our sins, but also makes us "rise and walk." We do not "rise and walk" first and then have our sins forgiven. That would be by our works. We are first forgiven, then we are able to rise and walk pleasingly before God. This is by God's grace. (From Matt. 9:5, footnote 2, in the Recovery Version.)

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Lesson Ten (Continued)

7. The scribes and Pharisees were angry with Jesus and accused Him of blasphemy because He forgave the paralytic's sins. This shows that they did not believe that Jesus was God. By uttering such a word they rejected the King of the kingdom of the heavens.

8. The healed paralytic, however, rose up and, carrying his couch, went home glorifying God. Perhaps he sang Psalm 32, "Thanks be unto God! Blessed is the man whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!"

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TEN

1. Why did the paralytic's friends have to break up the roof of the house to present him to Jesus? (Luke 5:19)
2. What did Jesus say to the man before He healed him? (Luke 5:20)
3. What did the Lord Jesus do in order to prove that He had authority to forgive sins on earth? (Luke 5:24)
4. What must we do to have our sins forgiven? (1 John 1:7)