



## Part 5: Love Lost People

Luke 5:17-26

*Love lost people by praying for them, caring for their needs, and sharing Jesus with them.*

### Luke 5:17-26

- How do you need to be carried to Jesus? Who do you need to carry to Jesus?
- A Persevering Love, The Healing Power of Jesus.

### A Persevering Love: Luke 5:18-19

- As depicted in this story and the parallel passages in the other gospels, it does not refer to the men who carry the paralytic as friends, but it is strongly implied. First, a paralyzed man would usually be shunned, looked down upon, and cast to the margins of society. They often lived by a twisted ancient near eastern karma that those with physical ailments deserved it because of sin in their life or their parents. We see this in John 9 when the disciples asked Jesus after seeing a man blind since birth, “**Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?**” And yet, only true friends would care for a paralyzed person who has been shunned and ostracized by society. Second, if it was strangers carrying this paralyzed man to Jesus to get him to stop begging or using him to test Jesus’ power, they would have given up by the crowds. They would have not persevered. Only true friends persevere and figure out a way to get their friend to Jesus.
- In their friendship, we see a **persevering love**. They could have given up on their friend or given into this cultural notion that he deserved to be paralyzed, a consequence of his sin. Instead with a persevering love they carried him to Jesus.
- As we think about our cultural moment, this is critically important for us. We live in a spiritually jaded culture where many people just don’t care or have been hurt by religion. In love, we must persevere in carrying our friends to Jesus.

“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” – John Maxwell

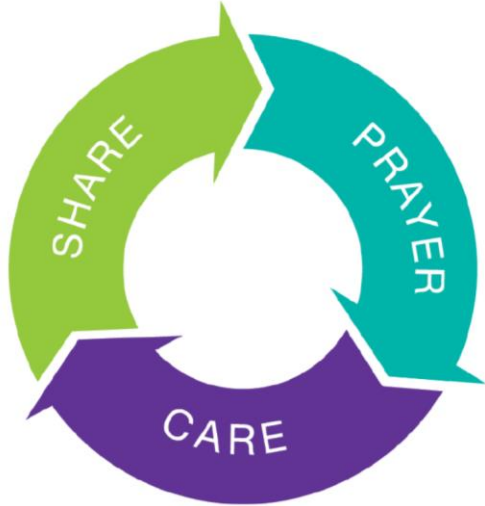
## The Healing Power of Jesus: Luke 5:20-26

- Jesus saw “their faith” – they knew that Jesus could heal. This encounter is set up by this phrase in vs. 17, “And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.” But it is striking that Jesus first did not heal, he rather says, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.” From a Jewish perspective, forgiveness of sins was tremendously important and there was often a correlation between ailments and sin. They also knew that their sin made them unclean and separated them from God. They lived under the sacrificial system where the life of an animal was taken, blood was shed for the forgiveness of sins. It was called atonement, a covering and cleansing of sins.
- And yet, this paralytic was carried to Jesus to be healed and Jesus did not heal at first. And then Jesus goes on to say, “But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home” Luke 5:20-26.
- Jesus wanted to show that he had authority to forgive of sins by healing this man physically. We all have ailments, we are all broken, but our greatest brokenness is sin. It is our terminal diagnosis. We have all missed the mark in loving God and loving others. Sin is a poison in all of us that taints all of who we are, leads us to destruction, and ultimately death. And Jesus is the only remedy. He is the only cure to our terminal diagnosis.
- We also see in this text is that just as Jesus forgave the paralytic of his sins, he also healed him physically. He met him in His great need physically and spiritually. He was able to walk, to go home, to rejoin his community.
- Jesus meets people in their great need to point them to their greatest need
  - Jesus delivers a man of a demonic spirit (Luke 4:31-36)
  - Jesus heals Simon’s mother-in-law of her fever (Luke 4:38-39)
  - Jesus heals the leper (Luke 5:12-14)
  - Jesus heals the Centurion’s servant (Luke 7:1-9)
  - Jesus raises the widow’s son from the dead (Luke 7:11-17)
  - Jesus feed the five thousand (Luke 9:10-17)
- And from this new life in Christ, with this hope in His healing, we point others to Jesus. In the NT, followers of Jesus: “Christians” three times, “disciples” 269 times, “witnesses” 40 times. We are called to bear witness of who God is and all that He has done in our lives.

“The witness-life is cooperating with God and others to lovingly bring people, one step at a time, closer to Christ.” – Lon Allison

**Discipleship Commitment:** Love lost people by praying for them, caring for their needs, and sharing Jesus with them.

- The word “lost” is not a derogatory term meaning less than or hopeless. Rather, it is a term of compassion as Jesus said in Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” The word “lost” is to be lost like walking on the wrong path and we need to be given eyes to see and a new heart to follow the path of Jesus. So we may become a people of the good news, a people of love. We start this commitment with love because that is the heart posture and motive for it all. As 1 John 4:19 says, “We love because He first loved us.”



### Prayer, Care, Share paradigm

- “Share the Gospel” Practice: [GreenwoodCC.com/Life-with-Jesus-on-Mission/](http://GreenwoodCC.com/Life-with-Jesus-on-Mission/)
- Jesus meets people in their great need to point them to their greatest need – health crisis, depression, anxiety, or loneliness.
- **Prayer:** We first carry people to Jesus through prayer. This is absolutely critical for it is God who does the ultimate work and as we pray for people our hearts come alive and aligned with God’s heart. i.e. Prayer cards
- **Care:** To love is to care and to care well is to walk alongside others and get to know their stories and respond to their needs. Much of Jesus ministry is through a shared a meal, breaking bread with others. It is often around food and drink that people connect and we get to know their story. i.e. “Neighborhood Parties on Us”
- **Share:** Often the hardest step. But as witnesses, we are primarily telling our story to point people to God’s story. What has God done in your life? How has he given you hope?

We are a people of the good news who persevere in love through prayer, care, and share of the Healing power of Jesus.

How do you need to be carried to Jesus? Who are you carrying to Jesus?