

MEETING JESUS CHANGES LIVES

Luke 5:17-26 (GW) *One day when Jesus was teaching...,¹⁸ Some men brought a paralyzed man on a stretcher. They tried to take him into the house and put him in front of Jesus.¹⁹ But they could not find a way to get him into the house because of the crowd. So they went up on the roof and they made an opening in the tiles and let the man down on his stretcher among the people. They lowered him in front of Jesus.²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, He said, “Sir, your sins are forgiven.”²¹ The experts in Moses’ Teachings and the Pharisees thought, “Who is this man? He’s dishonoring God! Who besides God can forgive sins?”²² Jesus knew what they were thinking. So He said to them, “What are you thinking?²³ Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?²⁴ I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then He said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, pick up your stretcher, and go home.”²⁵ The man immediately stood up in front of them and picked up the stretcher he had been lying on. Praising God, he went home.²⁶ (TPT) The people were seized with astonishment and dumbfounded over what they had just witnessed. And they all praised God, remarking over and over, “Incredible! What an unbelievable miracle we’ve seen today!”*

What does this story have to do with us?

Q: What is preventing you from meeting or having a relationship with Jesus?

Identify ROADBLOCKS

What roadblocks are preventing you from meeting and having a relationship with Jesus? These guys hit a roadblock. The house was too crowded to get inside.

Q: What is preventing you from committing yourself to live a life as an fully devoted follower of Jesus?

Making EXCUSES

These guys saw that the house was crowded and didn't find an excuse to leave but rather found a way. They got onto the roof.

Q: What are your excuses for not following Jesus?

The paralysed guy couldn't hide the fact he was paralysed and he didn't make any excuses?

Q: Who do you most identify with from this story and why?

The Sceptics (pharisees)

You may not believe Jesus is all He says He is and can do all He says He can do. In fact, you may be sceptical that Jesus is the Son of God?

Investigate Jesus for yourself.

The Friends

They did everything they could to get their friend into the presence of Jesus.

Q: Do we care about our friends enough to introduce them to Jesus? What can we do to show our care?

The Paralytic

Maybe you feel paralysed. You're not growing. You're distant from God. Even the paralytic had some belief. The paralytic laying there had to say, *"Okay, take me. I'll go."*

We have to be willing to trust Jesus.

The Crowd

You're an onlooker. You're not ready to sign on the dotted line. You're not ready to step across from living society's way to God's way.

Q: Would you be prepared to come out of the crowd and receive or rededicate your life to Jesus?

Can you imagine the change in the paraplegic's life after he met Jesus?

What's keeping you from a life-changing response to Jesus?

Our greatest need in life is to be forgiven, and to become a friend of Jesus.

The paralysed fella wanting physical healing, but Jesus knew he needed something greater – forgiveness.

One of the things I love about this story is what Jesus does. He stops everything to focus on the one person and not the crowd.

When you come before Jesus, He will pay attention to you.