

WEEKLY REFLECTION

As we touched on the first of Jesus' two healings in Luke 5, we left with the conclusion that Jesus' healings are often teachings in themselves, and His healing of the leper is a beautiful depiction of the gospel. With just one touch, Jesus demonstrated His willingness to take the leper's place and be made unclean. With that willingness, He foreshadowed how He would eventually take our place and be slain for our sins upon the cross, just so we could be reconciled to Him.

Luke 5:17-26 shows us the second of the healings, as Jesus heals a paralyzed man. This time, it is not the man himself who approaches Him, but his faithful friends who bring him to the foot of the cross. We are reminded of how Jesus cares for us beyond the physical when He immediately forgave the sins of the paralyzed man. Yet more importantly, it was the *faith* of his friends that compelled Jesus to do so. (v.20)

It is easy to think that we are able to come to Jesus on our own, but the truth is that the journey of faith requires community. When we were still enemies to God, there was someone who pointed us towards Him. When we isolate ourselves from Him with our sin today, there must be someone who is willing to point that out. Just as the paralyzed man could never have approached Jesus without the help of his friends, we too must be conscious that the journey of faith is never walked alone.

But we cannot stay there—the path of Jesus requires that we walk with and love one another, as He first loved us. As we behold the One who has the authority to forgive sins (v.24a), ask yourself this: how aware are you of your need for help, and who do you find it from? Who do you trust to carry you to the feet of the cross, and who would you do the same for?

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

As we talk about the importance of community to our walks of faith, who is your Paul, your Barnabas, and your Timothy? If you do not have either one of these three in your life, who can you identify around you that might be a good fit? How could you start with those in your group, or how might your group members help you with inviting a Paul, Barnabas, or Timothy into your life?

QUESTION TWO:

According to what was shared on Sunday, why were the Pharisees so agitated? Why do they hold a position of doubt towards everything Jesus does? Is it possible that we might be Pharisees ourselves in the way that we approach our faith? What are some of those moments, and how do we come back to the heart of Jesus?

QUESTION THREE:

As you reflect on this week's passage, think about your great need for Jesus. How aware are you of this need, and what might be some of things that distract you / cause you to think otherwise?

How can you confront this deep need that we all have for a Savior, and how might you humbly approach Jesus in admitting and confessing that?