



NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

**Supplemental Texts**

Lev. 4-6:7, 24-29; 16:15-16; Pss. 8; 103; Isa. 43:25; Dan. 7:13-14; Eze. 2:1-2; 3:1-3; 4:1; Micah 7:18-20; Matt. 8:20; 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; 5:30; Luke 2:46; 7:9, 48-50; 17:19; 18:42; 21:27-28; 22:69; John 5:14; 9:1-3; Acts 5:34; Rom. 1:21; Gal. 6:2

**Study Summary**

In this passage Jesus faces His first opposition from the Pharisees, a group that would continue to misunderstand Him and His mission. The unbelief of the Pharisees is here contrasted by the faith of a paralyzed man and his friends, who seek Jesus to find healing for their broken friend. Jesus, seeing their faith, meets the deeper need and forgives the man's sins, which sparks internal accusations by the Pharisees. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, proves His authority to forgive sins by restoring the broken body of the paralyzed man, which causes the entire crowd to praise God.

**Historical & Theological Background**

**Pharisees were "members of a Jewish party that exercised strict piety according to Mosaic law." They "were a sect within early Judaism, becoming active around 150 BC and enduring as a distinct party until" "around AD 135."** "The Pharisees were concerned above all with the sanctification of God's Name" "and with the separation from all that was unholy. Their name also alludes to this emphasis (Φαρισαῖοι and *perûšîm* refer to 'separated ones')." They were "a movement concerned with the sanctification of every aspect of one's life. To this end they" added their own laws "as a fence around the written Torah in order to" keep people from breaking God's Law "and also to give the average person access to salvation." They "were not numerous," but "were very influential" and "were the unofficial religious leaders of" Jesus' time, some of whom "spearheaded the opposition to Jesus."

**"'Son of Man' is a literal translation of a Hebrew phrase commonly used to refer to a human being." Jesus took up this title as His "favorite self-designation," though He used it in connection with the prophecy "from Daniel 7 in which the Son of Man is a powerful figure who will come and exercise sovereign authority granted by God." The use of the title may have been Jesus' way "of referring to His Messiahship with the use of a term which would not arouse the wrong associations in people's minds" about a warrior messiah come to overthrow Roman rule.**

DISCUSSION PRIMER

This week's passage gives a powerful picture of what it looks like to bring someone to the feet of Jesus. Read Luke 5:17-26 and take time this week to pray for those in your church and in your MC. As you pray this week, be sure to reach out to one or two group members and ask for prayer requests.

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 5:17-26

Big Idea: Faith in Jesus Leads to Forgiveness and Healing, All to God's Glory  
Fallen Condition Focus: Unbelief

- Who came to hear Jesus' teaching (v. 17)? (See HTB)
- Why can't the paralyzed man and his friends reach Jesus (v. 19)? What do they do to remedy the situation?
- What kind of faith did the paralyzed man and his friends display (v. 20)?
- Why does Jesus forgive the paralyzed man's sins instead of healing him (v. 20)?
- Why do the Pharisees question Jesus and what are the meaning of Jesus' questions in response (v. 21-23)?
- How does Jesus prove that He has the authority to forgive sins (v. 24)?
- What is the meaning of the title Jesus gives to Himself (v. 24)? (See Dan. 7:13-14 & HTB)
- What does the healed man and the crowds do in response to Jesus' miracle (v. 25-26)?

Gospel Connection: In this passage Jesus shows that He supersedes the systems of the Temple (Lev. 4-6:7, 24-29; 16:15-16) by forgiving the man's sins apart from any animal sacrifice. Read Micah 7:18-20. How does Jesus fulfill this passage and all the Levitical requirements of animal sacrifice?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- What are some of the obstacles to belief in our city? Our society as a whole?
- How do people misconstrue our deepest need? (See v. 20)
- Why do people, even believers, struggle to come to Jesus when they are in need?
- Why must we depend on one another in the life of faith? (See Gal. 6:2) How do we help one another in our faith at The Hallows? How can we support each other in our MC? (Share prayer requests in your time together as needed)
- Share a time you acted like one of the paralyzed man's friends and brought a struggling brother or sister in Christ to the feet of Jesus. What affect did this have on your life?
- Share a time someone helped you turn to Jesus when you were struggling. What did they say or do that helped you to remember the grace and faithfulness of God?

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read **Luke 5:17-26** and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ?    |
| 2) The fallen human condition?        | 5) Our obedience to Christ?   |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ?        | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • a command to obey?  | • a beauty to behold?  | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe?  | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell?     |