



# THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

APRIL 9 - MAY 24

## (3) "A Hole in the Roof"

### HIGHLIGHT: *Luke 5:17-26 NLT*

H

*Below are excerpts from the overall passage for use with the APPLICATION and RESPOND. It will be beneficial for the group to read the whole passage to understand the entire context.*

**17** One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus.

**18** Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, **19** but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. **20** Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."

**21** But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

**22** Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? **23** Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? **24** So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

**25** And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. **26** Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

## EXPLAIN

*The purpose of this section is to deepen everyone's understanding of the Word.*

I love numbers. I will wake up at night and create a math problem, then try to solve it in my head. No wonder I don't sleep! You may think that numbers are not important. Moses thought they were. He named a whole book of the Bible "Numbers." Our text for today shows the power of numbers—even small ones. If one person found Jesus this year because I shined the the light, and next year the two of us shined the light for two more, and 4 more found Jesus the next year because we shined the light. You see where I'm going. Don't hold me to it (I was just scribbling on a piece of paper)—but in 33 years 8.5 billion would find Jesus. That's about the population of planet earth! The power of "1"!

**v.17** Jesus' ministry in Galilee is in high gear. He has called His first disciples (5:1-11), His miraculous healings have blessed others and, at times, hurt Him (5:14-16), and crowds are amazed at His teaching. The crowds (v.19) knew that **the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus**. As Jesus' popularity grows, so does the antagonism of His enemies. Religious teachers and leaders from **Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem** coordinated their efforts to curb this insane, popular enthusiasm. The power people "loved the darkness more than the light" (John 3:19).

**vv.18-20** Jesus' teaching was interrupted by four men tearing a hole in the **roof** of the house because **they couldn't reach Him because of the crowd**. You see, they had a friend—a friend who was in desperate need of Jesus' ministry. Nothing could keep them from getting that friend to Him. Do you have a friend like that? Are you a friend like that? These men may not change the world, but they could make a world of difference for their friend. **So they lowered the [paralyzed] man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus**. And Jesus stops His teaching (most teachers don't like interruptions because it takes the attention away from themselves). But no! Jesus' first words are, "Take heart; Cheer up; Be encouraged" (Matthew 9:2, NIV, *The Message*, NLT). Maybe we need to hear that for ourselves: "Be encouraged. I didn't come to condemn you. I am for you, not against you" (see John 3:16-17; Romans 8:31-32). When a deaf mute is brought to Jesus the Bible tells us that He *sighed* (Mark 7:27). A sigh is that long, audible breath that often signifies sadness. Maybe Jesus sighed, too, when He saw the paralytic: "*It's not supposed to be this way.*" I'm sure He felt it. We will never be able to "make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way" until we experience "His kindness and love" (Titus 2:10 and 3:4). Whatever it was that prompted those men to bring their friend to Jesus (maybe one of them had been healed earlier) it sparked a faith in Jesus that was so strong that they willing to be "fools for Christ's sake" (1 Corinthians 4:10 KJV). **Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."**

**vv.21-22** The young man didn't come for forgiveness. He was brought to Jesus for healing. Jesus knew that the prevalent thought of the culture was that physical illness and calamities were God's judgment on sinners. It may be sometimes; oftentimes it isn't (remember Job; remember the man born blind in John 9:2). We human beings just don't have the capacity to make that judgment (see Isaiah 40:12-14). Of course, Jesus knew what the man's situation was. Maybe his physical condition was due to sin. This one thing we do know: Jesus knew the power of unresolved guilt—whether it is real guilt or false guilt. Unresolved guilt always cripples (Psalm 32:1-5; 51:8-10, 17). "Young man, your sins are forgiven." Now there's another story line in this event. The religious leaders were there to find credible evidence of Jesus'

wrongdoing. They never dreamed that Jesus would hand them what they needed on platter. **Who does He think He is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!** And they were right. No one but God can forgive sin. But their conclusion was faulty because they did not recognize the divinity of Jesus. Jesus "knows the **evil thoughts of their hearts**" (Matthew 9:4) and has them right where He wants them.

**vv.23-24** Talk is cheap. Anybody can make bold statements if they don't have to back them up. So Jesus says, **Is it easier to say "Your sins are forgiven," or "Stand up and walk"?** Jesus heals the man to **prove that He has the authority on earth to forgive sins.** Jesus' miracle made any further argument unnecessary.

**vv.25-26** The end of the story is a healing that resulted in a man's **praising God in his home** and the common folk **gripped with wonder and awe.** Do you think that the paralytic and his friends yawned and said that was a pretty good trick He did there? No way! Those four men probably looked for someone else who needed Jesus' touch. The healed man touched his family, and they probably touched everyone else in their neighborhood. And it became a wildfire that couldn't be stopped. People were forced to say that this Jesus movement had "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6 KJV). That's what it always does when one touches another with the light of Christ, and those two touch two more, and those four...

The world can be turned upside down again in about 30 years if I take this little light of mine and let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## A

## APPLY

*Be comfortable with some silence as people think back to the sermon or reread the text. Answer honestly. You don't have to answer every question.*

1. What stuck out to you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?
2. Explain why the faith of the men carrying the paralyzed man was so important to healing.
3. Why did Jesus first forgive the paralyzed man's sins?
4. After the man was healed, he went home "praising God" (v. 25). How was this a proper response to the healing he received?
5. Jesus healed the paralyzed man to "prove. . . that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins" (v. 24). Jesus' focus is on the forgiveness of sins, and He heals in order to show that He has authority to do so. Why is that important?

## RESPOND

The purpose of this section is to take action with the truths you're learning. Answer honestly. Find someone who will hold you accountable to living out your response to Scripture.

1. In Scripture, we see that there are times in which God does not prevent suffering, but uses it for good for those who love Him (Genesis 50:20; John 11:3-4; Romans 5:3-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, etc). Have you ever prayed that God would heal, or that God would prevent some kind of suffering? If God did not heal, or did not prevent the suffering, what good have you seen Him work through it? If you have not seen any good yet, how are you relating to God as you wait on Him? Journal your thoughts.
2. In v. 25, the paralyzed man goes home praising God. Other version say "glorifying God." The greek word doxazo can mean to make glorious, glorify, or honor. The paralyzed man went home glorifying, praising, giving honor to God for what He had done. How does your life glorify, praise, or give honor to God for what He has done for you?

How can you continue to glorify, praise, or give honor to God?