



Lesson Five

Jesus Forgives and Restores

Heart Preparation

The story of the paralytic is a wonderful example of God's amazing grace. As you read the lesson Scriptures, may your heart be filled with praise and gratitude to God for his goodness to those he calls to faith in him.

Here, crowds once again surrounded Jesus: They came to see the wonderful signs. Some even came to hear about the kingdom of God, the life-giving word that was in marked contrast to the deadening teaching of the Pharisees—who, typically, came to criticize and condemn.

We read that some men made their way to see Jesus, carrying their paralyzed friend. Their loving actions and persistence revealed their deep trust in Jesus and sacrificial care for their friend. And when the hopeful group came before Jesus, he saw it all—the faith the Father had given the men, their fervor, and the sinful condition of the lame man's heart.

Jesus first forgave the paralytic his sins then healed him. What he said and did revealed that Jesus has the authority that belongs to God—the authority not just to heal but also to forgive sins. Jesus said that he did this “so that you may know the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”

The healed man went away praising God. He believed the words of Jesus and trusted him for spiritual life; he knew he was free from the bondage of sin, he had peace with God, *and* he could also make his own way home. No wonder he rejoiced!

“That’s the way it always goes. If we turn to Jesus, we always receive much more than we expect. Now the man saw clearly that Jesus’ words about the Kingdom of grace were absolutely true: grace indeed reigned.” (S. G. De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Vol. III, p. 195)

Bible Background

The Pharisees, the Jewish religious leaders, loved the law more than they loved God. They were self-righteous about their obedience, their outward acts of piety and their rituals. As “keepers” of the law of Moses, they were convinced that what Jesus said was appallingly blasphemous. They did not believe in him and certainly did not think they needed any forgiveness or any teaching or any healing of *any* kind from him.

“They came with another doctrine and were not about to let themselves be pushed from their position. It is marvelous to be pushed away from our position by the Lord Jesus but the [Pharisees and] scribes did not see that.” (S. G. De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Vol. III, p. 196)



Bible Truth

Jesus clearly showed the power of God when he forgave the paralyzed man and healed him.

Scripture

Luke 5:17–26 (see also Matthew 9:2–8 and Mark 2:3–12)



Lesson Focus

Jesus can forgive sin and heal sickness because he is God himself.

Goals for the Children

- State that Jesus did miracles to show people he is God.
- State that Jesus did miracles so that people would trust him as God, their Savior.
- Ask Jesus to forgive them when they sin.



Memory Minute

[Jesus said,] “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” John 14:9b