

# Congregational Study: Luke's Epiphany

## Luke 5:17-26

### Sunday Class (1/26/24)

Read the story for today, from Luke 5:17-26.

If Luke gathered material for his gospel from eyewitness, from whom do you imagine he might have heard this story?

Can you picture this crowded house scene in your mind? Imagine if that were your house?



Of the different characters in this story, with whom can you identify? Why?

In v. 1, Luke tells us that “Pharisees and teachers of the law [scribes] were sitting there ...” This is the first mention of those who would, for the rest of his ministry, oppose and reject Jesus.

What does their “sitting” posture suggest to you?

Luke mentions that Pharisees from across the land were present. Why do you think they might have come so far?

What do you think is the point Luke is making in the last sentence of v. 17?

In v. 18, Luke uses the phrases, “were bringing” and “were seeking.” The Greek verbs imply repetitive, persistent action. What the paralyzed man’s friends demonstrating by their repeated actions? Why were they so determined to put their buddy in the presence of Jesus?

What do you think of their decision to break through the roof?

We read, in v. 20, Jesus “saw their faith.” To whose faith is this reference made? What is the aim or object of this faith? Is it referring to the men’s loyalty to their paralyzed friend? Or does it extend also to their trust that Jesus can help?

Jesus tells the man, “Your sins are forgiven you.” Are you surprised in any way that this is what Jesus said, in this particular instant? Do you think the paralyzed man was surprised? His friends? The Pharisees? The crowd? Why do you think he pronounced absolution, before giving physical healing?

Why do you think Jesus didn’t say, “I forgive you your sins”?

What attribute of God is Jesus, when Luke tells in v. 22 that Jesus “perceived their thoughts”?

Look back at Simeon's prophecy in Luke 2:35, that Jesus would cause the "thoughts" of many to be revealed. Read also Luke 6:8; 9:46-47; 24:38.

Jesus poses a challenging question to his opponents. "Which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?" What do you think would have been the Pharisees' answer? Why was this a tricky question for them to answer?

Imagine the man getting up, and "immediately" picking up his bed, walking through the crowd, and heading off to his home.

Imagine the reaction of his friends.

What do you suppose was going on in the minds of the Pharisees?

The man returned home "glorifying God." What do you suppose this entailed? Do you imagine he was equating Jesus with God?