



## DEVOTION & DELIVERANCE

### “The Unquestionable”

Luke 5:17-26

April 6, 2014

#### Jesus Looks Up @ His Friends

- ✓ Their Concern
- ✓ Their Commitment
- ✓ Their Courage
- ✓ Their Cooperation
- ✓ Their Conviction (Faith)

#### Jesus Looks Down @ The Paralytic

- ✓ He was Helpless
- ✓ He was Hopeless
- ✓ He was Hungry

#### Jesus Looks Around @ The Crowd

- ✓ Spectators
- ✓ Seekers
- ✓ Pursuers
- ✓ Skeptics
- ✓ Opposers

#### Jesus Looks Within @ The Critics

- ✓ Questioned Jesus
- ✓ Doubted Jesus
- ✓ Accused Jesus

#### Jesus is Lord @ He Does the Impossible

- ✓ Perceives What They Are Thinking

- ✓ Power Necessary to Forgive Sin
- ✓ Proof That Jesus Can Forgive Sin
  - He Heals the Man
  - He Saves the Man
  - He Creates a Powerful Reaction – A 180° *MOMENT*
    - The Man      His Friends      The Crowd

#### OUR 180° MOMENT

1. Do you realize today that without Christ you are lost? That only Jesus can make a person whole and complete? It is time to take the 180° turn today! Remember, it is as easy as ABC – Draw near to Jesus and He will draw near to you! **Admit** you are sinner, **Believe** that Jesus is God’s Son who came to die for you, **Confess** Him as Savior and Lord, and **Commit** your life to Him!
2. Are you willing to go public with your faith? Have you trusted Christ but never made that public? Today is the day for you step across the line and profess your faith and be baptized as Christ was!
3. Do you have a Church Home? A place where you belong and you are connected? Is Christ calling you to join this Church Family? If so, there is no better time than today. Come and help us in the journey to reach our “home” and even to the ends of the earth!
4. Are you willing to be this kind of friend? Are you willing to go the distance, spend the time, not to quit and do your best to bring them to Jesus? Who in your sphere of influence needs you to be that kind of friend?

#### Write Their Name Here:

5. Where are you Helpless and Hopeless without Jesus? Are you Hungry to see Jesus move in your life? May we be like him and his friends who had great faith and seek Jesus and bring others to Jesus! May we glorify God when we see Him transform lives and never take any of the glory for us!

## U-TURN: 180° THE TURNED AROUND LIFE

### DEVOTION AND DELIVERANCE

“The Unquestionable

*Luke 5:17-26 & Mark 2:1-12*

April 6, 2014 AM Service

This morning as we continue our journey through the book of Luke, as we look at the incredible **Devotion** of 4 friends who did whatever it took to get their friend to Jesus and thus his amazing **Deliverance by Jesus** from being lame, crippled unable to walk to a man who walked again but more importantly found His sins forgiven! We once again see Jesus prove and demonstrate He was the Son of God and there should be no question to who He was. This morning we will take a look at this event from the perspective of Jesus – the way perhaps that he saw it.

**Set the Scene** – Imagine this man’s life – we don’t know what caused his lameness or how long he had been that way, but seems to have been for some time and unlike the leper, he was not an outcast and had some amazing friends as we will see. Jesus had come back to Capernaum and was in a large house that was open like houses were in the day and the placed was jammed full, wall to wall. – **ILLUS: Village in India wall to wall with people at the doors, down the hallways and standing by the windows**, Luke’s account tells us there was a group there to “spy” on Jesus from all over Galilee, Judea, and even Jerusalem. It was another day where healings were taking place once again.

### **Jesus Looks Up @ His Friends**

We’ll talk about in a minute why the first time Jesus sees these friends is by looking up!

#### ✓ **Their Concern/Love**

They obviously loved their friend a lot – maybe they had been friends back in their boyhood days and he had become paralyzed then, or maybe it was recently – either way they deeply loved their friend. As we will see shortly, we will see how great that love was!

#### ✓ **Their Commitment/Loyalty to Him**

They know that he couldn’t possibly get himself to Jesus and have the chance to be healed by Jesus, so they go and get him and literally carry him to meet Jesus. Would we be that committed to our friends?

- ✓ **Their Courage & Determination** As we mentioned the placed was jammed, and they couldn't even get close to Jesus. But notice, they did something about the problem, didn't get defeated, didn't quite, say oh well we'll come back another day or it's just too bad! They found a way to get their friend to Jesus. Go to the roof and dig a hole and let him down right in front of Jesus. It was a flat roof, but still not a common thing for people to be digging through roofs – I imagine that homeowner was none too pleased!
- ✓ **Their Cooperation**  
Somebody had to come up with a plan, somebody had to get the rope, somebody had to believe that this plan would work. It took all 4 of them and really all 5 because the lame man had to agree to be lowered down from a roof in front of all those people. They worked together.
- ✓ **Their Conviction – Faith**  
This is crucial – they had deep faith that Jesus could and would heal their friend if they could just get him in front of Jesus. When Jesus looks up that it was He sees – not these other things though they are important and all a part, but He sees their great faith! The faith of friends to believe so greatly on the behalf of their friend and their willingness to do whatever it took to get him to Jesus. Oh dear Church, these are great words – Do we have that kind of faith? Are we bringing daily our friends before Jesus in prayer? Are we inviting them to come? Are we concerned enough for them – do we love them enough? Are we committed enough to our friends to share? Are we so determined that we will stop at nothing to do our best to get them to Jesus? And do we have that faith that Jesus one day will save them if they will but answer that call. We can't save them, it's not our job but we can help bring them to the feet of Jesus!

### **Jesus Looks Down @ The Paralytic**

Please take note this morning of the parallels of who we were and are before we met or meet Jesus. This describes our condition.

- ✓ **He was Helpless**

He could very little for himself – he wasn't a beggar like Bartimaeus or destitute like the leper, but as a paralytic he was incredible dependent on others to provide for him and help him even do the littlest of tasks each

day. **ILLUS: Andrew Seago** We can do nothing to save ourselves – we are helpless without Jesus. Great news though, He first loved us before we ever loved Him. He willingly gave up his life for before we even knew Him.

✓ **He was Hopeless**

This is key – he didn't have to wake up and realize this – he saw it every day – hopeless that the rest of his days he would be a paralytic and would simply exist without something changing in his life! That's describes our lives before we meet Jesus. Now we may not realize that right away, but eventually we come to understand that without Jesus we have no hope, no purpose, no way out of where we are! We need to realize today that we are hopeless without Jesus!

✓ **He was Hungry** – for God to move in His Life

Everything changed in an instant and though his faith was not described I have to believe that he was willing – that he wanted something different in his life, he was helpless, hopeless and now desperate for the Lord to heal him not only physically though that is great, but he wanted something to meet his deepest need – someone to fill his empty soul. We need to be hungry this morning for a move of God in our lives that we are willing to do anything to get to Jesus, even let our 4 friends dig a hole in a roof in front of everyone, be lowered down and interrupt Jesus so that we can be made whole, complete, transformed by His power!

**Jesus Looks Around @ The Crowd was...**

Just as in the crowd that day the crowd here today is really no different. Let's take a look at who was there that day and who is here today.

✓ **Spectators** – Just there to watch the show – not to participate really just to be entertained – don't want my life changed, just going to show up and be there. Not a bad thing really, at least they were there.

Downside is was just a show and nothing more.

✓ **Seekers** Curious About Jesus – Have questions This group goes further though because they were really wanting to know more, have their questions answered, find out some more about who He is.

✓ **Pursuers** – Jesus as Healer, As Savior – This group is truly desiring the Lord – hungry for the Lord to move in their lives.

- ✓ **Skeptics** – Doubters – They were in the crowd that day – Scripture tells us that for sure – doubted Jesus
- ✓ **Opposers** to Jesus – some in the crowd obviously were vehemently opposed to Jesus.

**Who are you in this crowd today?**

**Jesus Looks Within @ The Critics** – Committee there to investigate Jesus, find out what He was doing and saying and report back. – OH what a report they would bring back!

- ✓ **Questioned Jesus** – Who is this person, who does He think He is?
- ✓ **Doubted Jesus** – He can't forgive sins, only God can
- ✓ **Accused Jesus** – Blasphemy

**Jesus is Lord – He Does the Impossible - 180°**

- ✓ **Perceives** – Reads The Minds of the Pharisees
- ✓ **Power Necessary to forgive sins** –
- ✓ **Proof That Jesus can forgive sins** – He is the Son of Man I want you to know – I am the Son of Man
  - **He Heals the man** – Rise Up He Tells the Man & Go Home
  - **He Saves the Man** – Your sins are forgiven
  - **He Produces a Powerful Reaction**
    - *The Man* He left and went home glorifying the Lord for what happened and no doubt told everyone!
    - *His Friends* These guys had to be forever changed – got addicted to seeing this kind of miracle! They were glorifying the Lord too!
    - *The Crowd* They were deeply impacted and went home glorifying the Lord – we have never seen anything like this!

Do know Jesus is here today and no matter where you are in the crowd He is ready and able and willing to heal you and save you today! It's ok no matter why you are here, you are here, the question is what do you do with what you have heard this morning. Maybe your friend brought you this morning? They desire to see your life changed forever! Will you respond today?

Will you be a God friend to someone and invite them to come Easter Sunday or more importantly to invite them to meet Jesus?