



August 15, 2021  
“Healing Soul and Body”  
Luke 5:17-26  
Pastor Gary Hamrick

Life can take a toll on a person’s soul and body. Such was the case of a man in the Bible who desperately needed help. He had four friends who cared about him enough to bring him to Jesus. The encounter the man had with Jesus would dramatically change his life, both spiritually and physically. We can experience the same change today when we have a personal encounter with Jesus because he is still actively healing people, body and soul.

1. Healing soul and body
  - a. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark also record this account of the healing of the paralyzed man, which took place in Capernaum.
    - i. Capernaum was Jesus’ home base during his three years of public ministry.
    - ii. Capernaum is located on the northwest coast of the Sea of Galilee.
    - iii. The name means village of Nahum.
      1. The prophet Nahum was either born or grew up in Capernaum.
  - b. In modern terms we would say that Jesus was having a Bible study in someone’s home.
  - c. Most Bible scholars believe there was a connection between this man’s paralysis and sin in his life.
  - d. Pastor Gary said, “Let me clarify this. ... People in [those] days... typically believed that every sickness was the result of a [person’s] sinfulness. They believed that [these] two things were inextricably linked. [Simply put], if there’s sin in your life, that’s the reason you are sick. ... [We also see this mindset in the book of Job when his friends suggested sin in his life was the reason for all of the catastrophic events he was experiencing. Jesus’ disciples believed this too. In John 9 we read about a man who was born blind.] In [John 9:2](#), Jesus’ disciples turned to him and said, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ You see they had a false theology,

but it was the common theology of the day even though it was erroneous. ... In [John 9:3](#), “Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.’ ” ... Now, let’s understand though [that] it is clear that some sickness is the direct result of sinfulness. If you are sexually promiscuous, you might pick up a STD [sexually transmitted disease]. If you are shooting yourself up with dirty needles, you might get hepatitis. If you get drunk a lot, you might be destroying your liver. ... That said, you should never make the argument or the judgment about yourself or somebody else that every sickness is caused by sinfulness in a person’s life. You can only say that because we live in a sinful world, people get sick. The reason people are sick in our world is because it’s part of living in a fallen, sinful world, and because there’s sin in the world and we live in a fallen world, sickness is just a natural consequence of living in a sinful world. ... Some people think that the reason [they] got cancer is because God is trying to punish [them]. That’s erroneous theology! ... When we get to heaven, there will be no more sickness. ... [We] are going to die one day of the last thing [we] were sick with.”

- i. [Psalm 38:3](#) - “... *there is no health in my body; my bones have no soundness because of my sin.*” (NIV 1984)
    - ii. [Revelation 21:4](#) - “*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*”
  - e. This is the only account in the Bible in which the forgiveness of sins and physical healing are connected.
  - f. Jesus forgave his sin first and then he healed his sickness, which is believed to have come from the advanced stages of syphilis, a sexually transmitted disease.
    - i. Syphilis left untreated affects the brain, causing a neurological problem that also affects the nervous system, which paralyzes a person.
    - ii. Additionally, syphilis can cause blindness and severe headaches,
2. God is always more interested in the eternal healing of your soul than in the temporary healing of your body.
    - a. God is more concerned with eternity than the here and now.
  3. God alone can forgive sins; thus, Jesus forgives sin because Jesus is God
    - a. [Luke 5:21](#) - “*And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, ‘Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ ”*
    - b. Pastor Gary said, “When priests or anyone stands in the place of God and absolves people of their sins, they are doing something that only God can do. Now, it’s okay to help people to understand that they are forgiven of their sins by God... to help people understand the work of God in forgiving them

and giving them that assurance that their sins are forgiven because of what God says he does in his Word, but to stand in the place of God like one is a vicar of Christ... and pronounce forgiveness from God is usurping a role reserved only for God and it's blasphemous."

- i. **1 John 1:9** - *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* (NIV 1984)
- ii. **1 Timothy 2:5** - *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus..."*
- iii. **1 John 2:1b-2** - *"But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense - Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."* (NIV 1984)
- c. **Luke 5:22-24** - *"But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, 'Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'rise up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins' - He said to the man who was paralyzed, 'I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.' "*
- d. Pastor Gary said, "Jesus [spoke] a word of physical healing to this guy to prove that he had the power to do the invisible (forgive sins, which can't be seen) by doing the visible (healing physically, which is obviously visible)."
- e. Pastor Gary said of Jesus telling the man to take up his bed, "I think symbolically [Jesus was] saying, 'Don't let anything of the past [remain] as a remnant. ... Take this away because life and your day is new.' ... He was completely dependent upon other people, and for the first time in his life he was going to come to understand what it means to be completely dependent upon God. Imagine how free this guy felt that day. ... Free from sin, free from the physical, debilitating condition; what an amazing moment for him!"

4. God still heals people today but not always the way we want

- a. God heals miraculously, medically, or eternally.
- b. Pastor Gary said, "I don't know why some people get healed by God miraculously and others don't. It's challenging theologically. ... [In John 5, Jesus bypassed a great multitude of people to go to one man that he was directed to go to. That man was healed and no one else was healed.] It's difficult to understand. How come Jesus didn't go through the whole area around the pool and heal everybody? Why did he just go to the one [man]? God is sovereign, and it's God's prerogative, and sometimes he heals people miraculously and sometimes not. Sometimes God heals people medically. ... The truth is that sometimes God just takes people home [to heaven]."
  - i. **John 5:1-15** the healing of the man who had been sick thirty-eight years.

- c. “God will permit what He hates to accomplish that which He loves.” – Joni Eareckson Tada<sup>1</sup>
  - i. Pastor Gary said, “God hates when we have to suffer, but sometimes he allows suffering to bring us closer to him because he loves us and he wants that relationship with us. And in her own words, Joni called [her] suffering a gift from God because it [brought her] to a place close to him that [she] would not have seen otherwise.”

5. Friends help friends find Jesus

- a. This man had four remarkable friends!
- b. **Luke 5:20** – *“When [Jesus] saw their faith, He said to him, ‘Man, your sins are forgiven you.’ ”* (Emphasis added)
- c. Pastor Gary said, “This isn’t to say that somebody can get saved on your faith. That’s not what [is being communicated in this account], and it’s not what I’m saying. Each person must exercise his or her own faith in coming into relationship with Jesus, but it is to say that sometimes God will move on behalf of another person who may not have much faith because of the faith you have for them. And God will honor your faith on their behalf. [Why] is this good news? ... I’m going to insert my own speculation here. I wonder if this guy, because of his paralyzed condition, was so weary that he didn’t have any faith? ... There [can] be multiple things in life that cause us to become so weighed down, so weary, so despondent, [and] so discouraged [that we] don’t have enough faith to pray anymore. I don’t say that to shame anybody. I say that because it’s reality. What I love about this story is that it is a reminder that sometimes when you don’t have enough faith for whatever your situation is, there can be friends who come alongside of you that have faith for you and will pray for you, and God will often honor the friend’s faith on your behalf. ... [It’s okay to say to someone, ‘I see what you are going through, and I hear the cry of your heart,] but just lean on my faith because I’m going to believe God for you.’

### Discussion Questions

1. Read **Luke 5:17-26** to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read **John 9:3** and invite the people in your group to share times when the works of God were displayed in their lives. (See #1d above)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://old.joniandfriends.org/radio/4-minute/god-permits-what-he-hates1/>

3. Read [Psalm 38:3](#) and invite the people in your group to share times they have recognized someone whose sin is making them sick and to consider ways they might help them recognize their need for Jesus. (See #1d-i above)
4. Spend some time talking about the order of healing Jesus performed on this man and why that's important. (See #2 above)
5. Spend some time discussing the importance of understanding God alone can forgive sin. (See #3a through #3e)
6. Allow the people in your group to share ways they themselves came to understand they were forgiven by God.
7. Spend some time talking about Scripture verses that assure us of salvation.
8. Invite the people in your group to share how someone helped them recognize they needed Jesus.
9. What are some of the ways you are helping your family or friend(s) recognize their need for Jesus?
10. If you know someone who needs to have a personal relationship with Jesus, have you shared with them who Jesus is and that each person is responsible for exercising his or her own faith in coming into personal relationship with Jesus, and how to respond to Jesus?
11. Do you know how to lead someone in prayer to receive personal relationship with Jesus?
12. How is the Holy Spirit giving you a heart for others that you will have faith for others and pray for them when they can't?
13. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)