

## “Jesus Drops a “Bomb””

### Luke 5:17-26

Feb. 6, 2022

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- “sitting there” – not standing to make room. They are the head-honchos, so are privileged.
- This is a Pharisee “convention.”
- They are there as the 1<sup>st</sup> stage to investigate/observe what is going on.
- And Jesus is ready. His power is present.

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- Jesus came to teach the truth which is able to save the lost.
- Healing never saved anyone. Better to go sick into heaven than to go healthy into hell.
- “Pharisees” – separated. These are the separated ones from the rest of society. They created their own religion. They made the rules and regulations. Enforcers of the Law.
- ‘Law-Teachers’ – νομοδιδασκαλος - Scribes. This is a group of mainly Pharisees who studied, interpreted and taught the Law. They are ready to split a hair 40 different ways.
- During the 400 year intertestamental period, the leadership in Israel had gone off the rails. They added and added and added to God’s Word. Totally legalistic.

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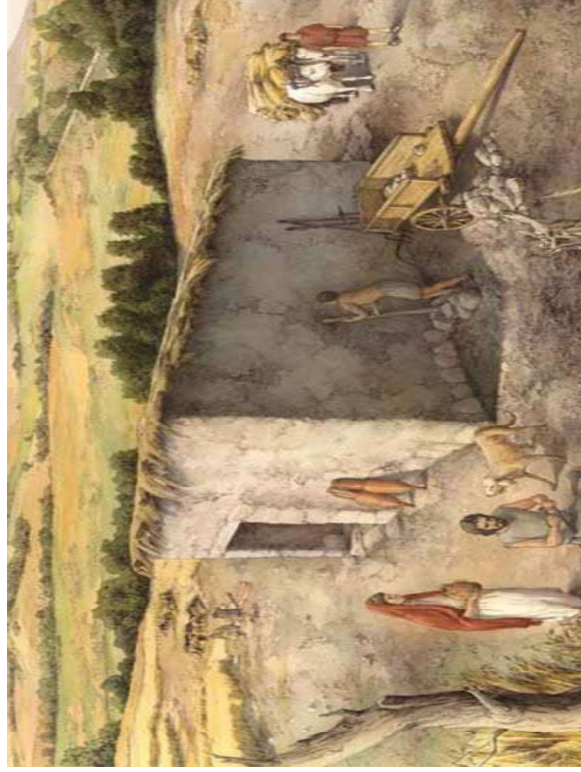
**18 And some men were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him.**

- 4 men carrying a paralyzed man on a cot.
- No convalescent hospital providing care for him.
- No physical therapist.
- No medical breakthroughs.
- No miracle drugs.
- No specialist.
- No neurosurgeon.
- Life as he knew it was a 3'x6' cot.
- **“paralyzed”** – we don’t know how he got that way – genetic defect, accident, disease.
- They attempted to make their way through the crowd to put this man in front of Jesus.
- No one would let them through!
- Here is a real snapshot of man-made religion –
  - Religion prevents you from coming to Christ.
  - Religion will tell you what to believe about Jesus Christ.
  - Religion only exists to serve itself and its system.
- **Matt 7:22-23**

2 “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’” 23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

**19 But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.**

- They just couldn’t find a way to get him to Jesus.
- “The crowd is too big. I guess this isn’t the Lord’s will.”
- “How else can we do it?”
- The roof? Maybe, but it is going to be difficult.
- “Ah, man, this is embarrassing. You’ll have to do this without me.”
- Let’s look at a 1<sup>st</sup> century house . . .



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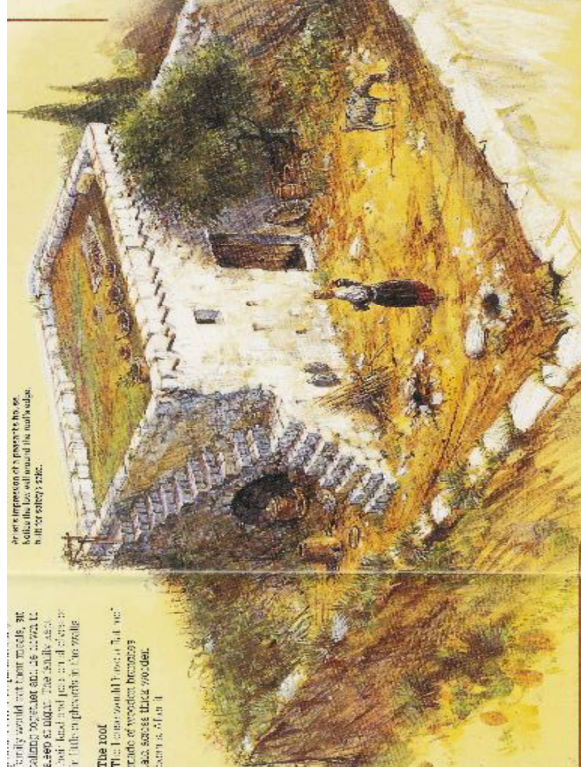
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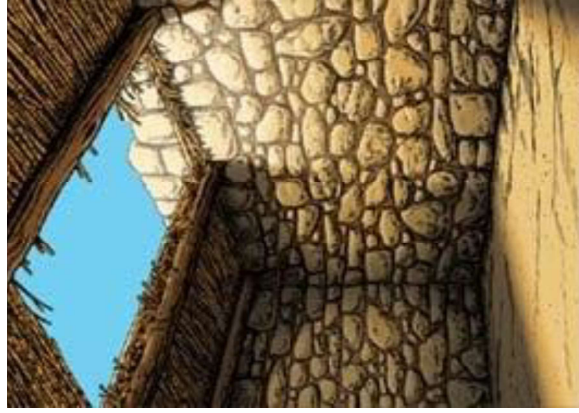






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**“But not finding a way . . .”** They found a way. Maybe their names were . . .



**Frank Faith, Harry Hope, Larry Love, & Dan Determination**

Frank Faith said, “I believe we can get this man to Jesus.”

Harry Hope said, “I believe there is hope for this man”

Larry Love said, “I really love this guy.”

Dan Determination said, “Let’s roll!”

- Ray Stedman

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**“But not finding a way . . .”** They found a way. Maybe their names were . . .

- They are concerned about 1 thing – bringing this man to Jesus.
- But what about the hole in the roof? Too many people are more interested in the building, or the programs of the church, instead of the people!
- So they start digging and the dirt and dust starts falling. No doubt some on the robes of the Pharisees.
- Pharisees - “What is going on?” “Don’t these clowns on the roof know who we are?” What disrespect, what poor timing.
- Jesus is thinking, “What perfect timing.”
- Owner of the home is thinking, “I sure hope my homeowners insurance covers this!”
- Bringing people to Christ is not always convenient.
  - You may think that this is not the right place or the right time but to God it is the perfect time.

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- Seeing the faith of all 5 of them.

Luke 5:22 But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts?"

**"forgiven"** – perfect tense – has happened and continues to happen. An abiding state of forgiveness.

- Forgiveness is only found in Christ.
- The One who is offended can only forgive. God has been offended by everyone, therefore only God can forgive.
- No person, no priest, no pastor, no denomination can do this.
- This man's greatest need was for forgiveness, not healing.
- It is better to enter heaven paralyzed, than to enter hell a healthy person.
- But you say, "Where is the repentance, the confession, the sinners prayer?"
- Not needed. Jesus saw into the man's heart.

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- Here the "bomb" is dropped.
- Seeing the faith of all 5 of them.

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**"forgiven"** – perfect tense – has happened and continues to happen. An abiding state of forgiveness.

- Forgiveness is only found in Christ.
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## Jesus is not implying, by granting forgiveness of sin first, that the man's paralysis was directly caused by sin.

Sickness may be due to:

- specific sin (1 Cor 11:30)
  - to prevent sin (2 Cor 12:7)
  - to test a person (Job. 2:7)
  - to display the glory of God (John 9:2)
- \* All sickness is ultimately the result of Adam's fall and the entrance of the corrupting influence of sin into the world.

**21 The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?"**

**"reason"** – διαλογίζομαι – to think through, to consider, to reckon, to reason.

- This is thinking to themselves and not out loud.

**"blasphemies"** – speaking evil against God.

Blasphemy is committed when -

(1.) things unworthy of God are attributed to Him;

(2.) things worthy of God are denied to Him;

(3.) when the incommunicable attributes of God are attributed to others."

**The Pharisees reason:**

[1] Jesus claims the power to forgive sins.

[2] Only God can forgive sin.

[3] Therefore Jesus commits blaspheme.

**They should reason:**

[1] Jesus claims the power to forgive sins.

[2] Only God can forgive sin.

[3] Therefore this Man is God!

- Therefore they say, "Who does He think He is?"

- They come unglued in their minds at this point. But they are only there to observe.



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"hearts" – καρδιά - the heart is the center of life. It controls the intellect, emotions, and will. It generates the thoughts that make the decisions

- Jesus knew their hearts. Shows He is God. Another proof that they ignore.

### John 2:24-25

24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,

25 and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

**Matt. 9:4** says, "And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking **evil** in your hearts?"

Not κακοῦ but πονηροῦ – active opposition.

- Jesus could have stopped them here, if this was the wrong conclusion. "You misunderstood me."

**23 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?"**

- Now they are being led into a trap.
- Easier to say "sins are forgiven." Who can prove otherwise?
- Both are impossible by man.
- The first, you cannot prove the results, the second you can.
- This test will quickly show the authority you have.
- **Note:** Both will be abolished in heaven – all sin and all disease. God will do both.
- So here Jesus declares the easier one to say and do first. If He now does the harder one it proves what? That He is God. Brilliant!

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- So here is the proof of His authority to forgive sins.
- "You're healed, go home."
- It all rides on this. Is He a blasphemer who needs to be stoned or is He God who needs to be worshiped?
- Jesus did the miracle they could see so that they might know he had already done the other miracle they couldn't see.

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**"Immediately"** — no recovery time, no delay, no waiting.

- The man is totally and completely restored, healed.
- He goes home and dumps his cot in the garbage can.
- He glorifies and praises God for salvation and healing.
- He goes one way filled with joy and excitement, and the Pharisees and Scribes go another way filled with hate, anger, hardened hearts, and determination to kill and destroy Jesus on the next occasion.

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**3 reactions:**

1. **"astonishment"** — εκστασις — ecstasy — they were beside themselves in wonder. They were stunned, shocked.
2. **"fear"** — φόβος — fear — to have the highest regard for something.
3. **"remarkable"** — παραδοξος — paradox — no explanation.