

# Your Sins Are Forgiven You

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 5:17-26



## Big Idea

Before Jesus has come to heal our bodies He has come to forgive our sins. Indeed it is only after He has forgiven our sins that He can ever truly and eternally heal our bodies!

### (1) The Rowdiest Faith (vv. 17-19)

It should go without being said that, in ancient Israel, *unroofing roofs* was never a socially acceptable way of entering a person's house. It would be just as crazy and rude back then as it would be today. But we depart from social norms and civility when we're desperate for Jesus. And that's the point I'm trying to bring out here. This is a rowdy faith. They're causing a scene. They're destroying this person's house to get their friend to Christ!

### (2) The Greatest Letdown (v. 20)

Here is where the crux of His mission is laid bare—above anything else, He's come to forgive sins. Here is the problem beneath all problems, the need beneath all needs.

Physical needs are real, very real, they just aren't fundamental. Jesus cares about them, He just cares most of all about the needs underneath them. He has a compassion that encompasses not less than our physical needs but more. It might sound scandalous to say, but I think this text gives me warrant: Jesus loves us more than we even love ourselves. When it's all said and done, He will give this paralytic not only the physical health he so desperately wanted, but the forgiveness of sins He so desperately needed. Jesus will take this man further into blessing he even knew how to ask for. The Apostle Paul is not just turning phrases when he writes in Eph 3:20 that God is "able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think." No! Paul is pointing us to the reality that our God will do more in love for us than we can even imagine to ask from Him. That is precisely what we see in our text. We come to Jesus asking to be healed of a head cold, and He heals us of the cancer beneath it!

### (3) The Highest Authority (vv. 21-26)

The point in all of this isn't the miracle, although it is astounding enough. The point is what the miracle proves: "that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . ." (v. 24)! We are to infer from His authority over the physical realm, which we can see, that He also has authority over the spiritual realm, which we cannot see. If Christ can say to a paralytic, "Rise and walk" and immediately it happens, then Christ can say to the chief of sinners, "Man, your sins are forgiven you" and not even the devil himself can overturn the verdict!

## Reflection Questions



- How would you have answered the opening question: What's the one thing you feel like you desperately need today, or this year? What's the one thing that you think: "If I could just get that, life would be good"? How does the forgiveness of your sins in Christ relate to your answer?
- How rowdy is your faith? How desperate are you for Jesus? Do you come to church desperate for Him or going through the motions? Explain.
- Explain how this statement is true: "Until you deal with sin, you haven't really dealt with anything. And once you've dealt with sin, you've effectively dealt with everything." Why would it not have been enough for Jesus to only have healed this man's body?