



## Today's Message

Date: April 26, 2020  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: ***"Who Can Forgive Sins?"***

Text: Luke 5:12–26 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."<sup>13</sup> And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him.<sup>14</sup> And he charged him to tell no one, but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them."<sup>15</sup> But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities.<sup>16</sup> But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.<sup>17</sup> On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.<sup>18</sup> And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus,<sup>19</sup> but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.<sup>20</sup> And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."<sup>21</sup> And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"<sup>22</sup> When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts?<sup>23</sup> Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?<sup>24</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home."<sup>25</sup> And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.<sup>26</sup> And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

Introduction: Luke presents us with a vivid account of two memorable miracles Jesus performed. The accounts describe several groups of people suggestive of several lessons we could learn:

- The leprous man
- The crowds
- The paralytic
- The four friends
- The religious leaders

But Luke's main purpose is to instruct us concerning the identity of Christ and his message of the gospel of the Kingdom.

**I. Jesus came to take care of your greatest need: forgiveness.**

**II. Jesus is uniquely qualified to forgive our sin because he is God.**

**III. Jesus proved that he can do this by healing the helpless.**

Therefore, from this story we learn that . . .

**Today's take-home truth: Jesus Christ is the hope of the helpless for he does for us what only God can do.**