

Sunday School Opening

2021.12.5

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Opening Songs

- Songs and Choruses
- #306 “Welcome To Our Sunday School.”
- #74 “Go And Tell The Story.”

Opening Comments

- What has been stirring in my mind is the impact of stories, in that our own self-talk is a story line that ends with its impact on our lives.
- This is one avenue in which I am building a thankful and grateful spirit and that is to tell a story that has been covered by the grace of God.
- For one, in the Bible, sometimes I just read it for doctrines instead of the believing feelings and emotions that accompany getting into a story.

Impactful stories that I remember

- The first is the book Heidi, in which the little cripple stands out of her wheel chair for the first time. She had been ill in her city home and she was sent to the country to breathe the fresh air of the mountains. There her diet was goat cheese, milk, and sunshine.
- The second is a movie about the discovery of insulin, and I am rejoicing at the presentation by the doctor to his colleagues of his patient who had received insulin.

Three synoptic accounts of a miracle.

- **Matthew 9:1-8 (NASB)**

¹ Getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over *the sea* and came to His own city.

² And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven."

³ And some of the scribes said to themselves, "This *fellow* blasphemes."

⁴ And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"

⁵ "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'?"

⁶ "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—then He *said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home."

⁷ And he got up and went home.

⁸ But when the crowds saw *this*, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Mark 2:1-12

- **Mark 2:1-12 (NASB)**

¹ When He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home.

² And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them.

³ And they *came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men.

⁴ Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying.

⁵ And Jesus seeing their faith *said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,

⁷ "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, *said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?"

⁹ "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'?"

¹⁰ "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He *said to the paralytic,

¹¹ "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home."

¹² And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Luke 5:17-26

- **Luke 5:17-26 (NASB)**

¹⁷ One day He was teaching; and there were *some* Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting *there*, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and *from* Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was *present* for Him to perform healing.

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.

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.

²⁰ Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you."

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

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

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

²⁴ "But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home."

²⁵ Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God.

²⁶ They were all struck with astonishment and *began* glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."

The paralytic “ I am forgiven and can walk”

- The Lord Jesus tells the Pharisees that his sins were forgiven, and also that He saw the faith of those who brought him. The emphasis turns from the healed to those who were there. The scriptures say he went home glorifying God, but let me add that this was a day he would never forget! His own self-story was changed.
- “I am paralyzed, but, “Glory to God! I am forgiven and able to walk.”
- “give us the grace to cheerfully arise.” Matthew Henry Commentary

The Pharisees, critical, and unforgiving, forced to continue their self deception to save face.

- Some of them reasoned in their hearts,
- Cannot forgive sins! Blasphemy!
- This is what the Lord knew in their hearts.
- So they would know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.
- I think this anticipates the cross, but also His present right to do this in His name as it will be done.

The four faithful men that took the paralytic

- Carried by four persistent men. They developed an unusual plan.
- Gladly carried this kind of weight. (Analogy of lifting weights)
- But what if they didn't? The pallet would be pretty rocky and one end would collapse sending our patient tumbling. They worked together.
- They shared the weight and carried it in step. Timing is everything.
- There is a wrong way to lift, and when you lift the right way it really works.
- “Let’s go to Jesus and He will tell you that you are a sinner.” What if the man on the pallet did not want his sins exposed?

The amazed people there

- They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God and they were filled with fear.
- “We have seen remarkable things today.” Luke 5:26
- “awestruck and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.”
Matthew 9:8

The Lord Jesus Christ

- Capernaum
- Power to heal, and this was real spiritual energy, work expended and received with effect.
- Authority to forgive sins.
- See their unbelieving hearts.
- Son of Man.
- He had prayed before.
- His weights, the burdens He took on.

7:30 am



5 pm



The light
that had
shown in
Bethlehem
still shines
today.

