

POWER HOUR

4/7/2024

Lesson Text:
Luke 5:17-26

Background Scripture:
Luke 5:17-26

Devotional Reading:
John 4:4-18

“FAITH OF THE PERSISTENT”

NLT TRANSLATION

Learning Facts: To identify the correct and incorrect conclusions of the scribes and the Pharisees.

Biblical Principle: [To know that God rewards faithfulness.](#)

Daily Application: To live a life devoted to serving God by serving others.

Luke 5:17-26 NLT

17 One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus.

18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, **19** but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. **20** Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, “Young man,

your sins are forgiven.” **21** But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, “Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!”

22 Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you question this in your hearts? **23** Is it easier to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up and walk’? **24** So I

will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then

Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go

home!” **25** And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. **26** Everyone was gripped with great wonder and

awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, “We have seen amazing things today!”

INTRODUCTION

Imposter Friends

Words and their definitions seem to change all the time. In recent years, discussions on

blogs and opinion pieces have focused on defining the word friend in the age of social media. Is it possible for a person to have thousands of “friends”? Is it possible to be friends with someone you have never met in person? Many so-called friends on social media are criminals hiding behind fictitious names! They are imposters.

I have found a simple way to identify one’s genuine friends: announce that you are moving and see who volunteers to help. My wife and I have moved more than 10 times during our 22 years of marriage. Surprisingly, we have had no more than five people who have helped us pack and load the trucks. By contrast, I have over 300 “friends” on social media. Today’s lesson allows us a first-century look at the results of authentic, Christ-honoring friendship.

QUESTION(S)

- How do Hebrews 11:1–12:3 and James 2:14–26 inform you of the connection between faith and action?
- How can you prepare yourself for others’ questions regarding the identity and authority of Jesus?
- How do you maintain an attitude of worship even when it seems God has not worked in the manner that you desired?

CONCLUSION

Authentic Friends

Social media has changed the world’s concept of friendship. Only time will tell whether a new word is needed to distinguish between a virtual social-media friend and an authentic real-life friend. In the meantime, I will continue to post online as we prepare for our next move and patiently wait for my 300 so-called friends to show up. lol

The friends in today’s lesson remind us of the nature of authentic friendship. We are unsure how long they had been carrying their friend around on this bed. We know that when Jesus came into the city, they believed He could help their friend. However, they did not stop at simply believing. They put their faith into action and brought their friend to Jesus, overcoming every obstacle on the way.

It was not an easy task to get their friend onto the roof, tear it apart, and lower him into the room. Undoubtedly, they could have spent their time on other matters that day. How can you dedicate your time and resources to assisting a friend in need?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we are grateful for the friends who have helped us on our faith journey.

We pray that You will help us be the friend who carries the bed of another when needed, regardless of the obstacles in our path. We give You thanks for friends and the strength to be a friend in Jesus' name. Amen.

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

God enables us daily to be faithful friends!

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "Faith of a Centurion" where we learn why Jesus was amazed by his faith. Study Luke 7:1–10.