

The Glory of Jesus' Ministry: To Forgive Sins

Luke 5:17-26

Key verse 24a

“But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”

The messenger this morning clearly explained to us that the Glory of God is in Christ Jesus.

Tonite we will see that this glory is revealed in Jesus' ministry on earth.

In this evening message I'm privileged to share with you, how Jesus' glory manifested in the life of a paralytic man by receiving forgiveness of his sins.

Many people have tried in their own way to overcome a sinful life and have failed.

But Jesus has authority to forgive our sins as we come to him.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will open your hearts to receive God's word and to live by it in Jesus' name.

One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there.

They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem.

And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.

Many people had come to listen to Jesus' teaching because it was unique and different from that of religious leaders.

You too have come from all over the world to this conference.

Some are here to see the glory of God.

Some might be here to enjoy a vacation.

Whatever the reason, I'm so glad you are here and I pray that you may receive the word of God in your hearts and may live a changed life for Christ Jesus.

Look at verses 18-19. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.

When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

These men brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus.

They did not let the crowd or even the roof hinder them from coming to Jesus.

They found a way to get to Jesus.

They had compassionate hearts to help their needy friend come to Jesus.

For you, or for your friend, there may be many barriers or challenges that block the way to Jesus.

But don't give up. Come to Jesus. Jesus is the only true hope for you and for your friends.

Look at verse 20. “When Jesus saw their faith, he said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’”

To the crowds, these men looked rude and crazy to dig through the roof.

But Jesus saw them differently. Jesus saw that they had faith.

They believed that Jesus could help their friend.

Here we learn that Jesus sees our faith.

Our faith in Christ Jesus is the vital ingredient to being healed by Jesus.

Now look at what Jesus said to this paralytic man.

Jesus said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

This is not what the friends were expecting to hear.

They wanted their friend to be able to walk.

But Jesus addressed a more urgent problem: the man's sins.

To Jesus, our most urgent problem is sin.

The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Ro 3:23).

Even from birth we are sinners.

Psalm 51:5 says, "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."

What is sin?

Sin can be described in many ways.

James 4:17 defines sin as follows: "If anyone... knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them."

Sin is doing evil, but sin is also not doing the good we know we should do.

Sin is living a life that does not conform with God's character or commands.

We don't know what the sins of this paralyzed man were.

Perhaps he complained a lot about his life.

He must have been a great burden to others, since they had to carry him wherever he went.

Sometimes we are like paralytics.

We complain and burden others.

Even more, we do not always do the good that we know we should do.

We are lazy, burdensome, irresponsible and selfish.

We do not glorify God in all that we think and say and do.

Sin doesn't even seem real or very serious to many people.

But sin is very serious to God.

Sin separates us from God.

In Old Testament times, God required the sacrifice of lambs and bulls to be sacrificed to take away the sins of his people.

But Jesus declared with his divine authority, "Your sins are forgiven."

How did Jesus' listeners respond to his words?

When the religious Pharisees heard Jesus say, "your sins are forgiven," they immediately saw red lights flashing.

They said, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Actually, their argument was justified: who can forgive sins but God alone?

No one can forgive someone's sins against God.

Only God can forgive our sins.

In declaring this man's sins forgiven, Jesus was claiming to have the mind of God.

Jesus knew their thoughts.

So he asked them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?'"

How would you answer Jesus' question?

Someone might say: "To say, 'your sins are forgiven' is easier, because no one can prove that your sins are forgiven."

Another might say, "It's easier to say, 'Get up and walk,' because there are magicians, like those in Moses' time, who could perform false miracles.

Still another might say, "Real forgiveness and the power to heal are impossible for men, but for God, they are possible."

Now look at verse 24. "But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

What happened?

"Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home, praising God."

Hallelujah! This man after experiencing Jesus' glory, went home praising God.

This miracle of Jesus Christ was a sign that attested to his divine authority.

Jesus is the Son of Man who has authority to forgive all our sins. Praise Jesus!

Maybe you are thinking: "Can my sins really be forgiven?"

You do not know the shameful sins I have committed.

Is there really forgiveness of sins for me?"

Absolutely yes! God says in Isaiah 1:18,

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

No matter how deep your sin may be or how guilty or shameful you may feel,

Jesus is ready to forgive your sins, because he loves you.

Jesus has taken all your guilt and shame and borne it in his body on the cross, so that all your sins could be forgiven

—your past sins, present sins, future sins, your worst sins, all your sins will be forgiven—when you come to Jesus and believe in him.

Jesus wants to forgive all your sins and give you a new life, praising God. This is the glory of Jesus.

My name is John Fatoyinbo. I was once paralyzed in sin and my life was full of darkness.

I came from a broken family.

I was raised by my grandma, who brought me to the shrine to worship idols and make sacrifices to gods of iron and other gods.

I also lived in the sins of lust, anger and immorality.

All these sins in my life blinded me from knowing the true God.

But a friend in High school brought me to the light in Christ Jesus.

God's word based on Galatians 5:19-21 convicted my heart that with the sins of idolatry, sexual immorality and anger I could not inherit the kingdom of God.

Knowing the consequence of living such a sinful life style was the turning point in my life.

I repented of these sins and believed in Jesus for the forgiveness of my sins.

Christ Jesus became my Lord and Savior and gave me a new life in him.

Jesus has forgiven my sins and has been changing me.

I used to argue and fight a lot in anger; but now I am known as a peaceful man.

Also, I abandoned my worldly dream of marriage and married a woman of faith and prayer who loves Jesus.

God has given us four children who are growing in faith.

Now I am serving Unilag students with God's word and prayer as a shepherd and Bible teacher.

All praise, thanks and glory be to Jesus!

Remember that Jesus has authority to forgive all your sins.

Don't let the devil or anyone hinder you from coming to Jesus.

Jesus' authority to heal the paralyzed man is just a glimpse of the glory of God that can be manifested in your life.

I want you to make a confession of faith right now: "I believe Jesus has forgiven me all my sins."

I pray that this may be your true confession of faith.

I pray we may all know Jesus' glory in the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name.