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**“WEEK #4 – Through the Roof”**

Preached: March 19, 2023

Preacher: Sean Meade

Series: “Miracles of Jesus” – Lent 2023

Scripture: Luke 5:17-26

SECTION 1 – SMALL GROUPS QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever seen a sermon interrupted by something unusual? What happened, and what were the reactions in the room?
2. Luke tells us that Pharisees and teachers of the law had come from many different areas to be present as Jesus was teaching. Why was that significant? What effect do you think it had on Jesus as He was speaking?
3. The four friends brought their paralyzed friend to be healed and lowered him through the roof when there was no other way to get him inside to Jesus. Have you ever seen someone do something remarkable (and maybe a little crazy) to help a friend?
4. When the paralytic man is lowered before Him, Jesus says “Friend, your sins are forgiven”. Why would Jesus address this man’s spiritual need before his physical need? What does that say about God’s priorities? What effect (if any) might that have on the way that you pray for others?
5. From the crowd’s perspective, it was probably less impactful for Jesus to forgive the paralytic man’s sins than to heal him, because forgiveness is invisible — no one could verify that the man was forgiven before God. Yet it could be instantly verified whether or not the man could walk. Jesus was willing to put Himself to the test in a way where the results would be immediate. Have you ever had a moment where your faith and/or your commitment to Christ was tested? What happened, and how did you respond in that moment?
6. There are several different groups or individuals in this story. There are the Pharisees and teachers of the law, the people gathered to hear Jesus speak, Jesus, the paralytic man on the mat, and finally the friends who brought the paralytic man to Jesus. As you read this story, which of these people do you think you would be? Who do you most identify with and why?
7. Jesus initially responds not to the faith of the paralytic man, but to the faith of his friends. Luke says in verse 20, “When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

Pastor and Theologian Charles Spurgeon spoke of the quality of men who would bring a friend to Jesus in such a way: “They need be strong, for the burden is heavy; they need be resolute, for the work will try their faith; they need be prayerful, for otherwise they labor in vain; they must be believing, or they will be utterly useless.”

As you examine your own life, how do you measure up against that description? Are you the kind of person who would stop at nothing to bring someone to Jesus? What about the people around you? Do you have friends and family who would stop at nothing to bring you to Jesus?

If your answer to either of those primary questions is no, then what would it look like for you to become that kind of a friend - and what would it take for you to bring more people like that into your life?

SECTION 2 – PRAYER

Pray about all that has come up in discussing this passage today.

* To show you the people around you who need you to help get them to Jesus.
* To help you cultivate friendships with people who will support and encourage your faith.
* What Jesus might be challenging you to do in response to this.