

## LESSONS FROM A LAME MAN

Luke records Jesus' healing of a man sick of the palsy in Luke 5:17-26. On this occasion, four friends were bearing this one who was unable to walk so that he might be healed by the power of the Christ. The throng was so great that these friends were unable to bring this one in need of healing before the Great Physician. The loyal foursome decided to carry their friend to the roof of the house in which Jesus was performing various miracles of healing. They then tore part of the roof away, and preceded to lower their helpless friend to the very feet of Jesus. The Lord took away his physical ailment, commanding him to rise up and walk. But, more importantly, Jesus healed this man spiritually. This man left the presence of the Lord with his sins having been forgiven. We are able to learn some very important lessons from this encounter. What can we take from this lame man who was made to walk?

First, I see that all of us are afflicted with the same disease as was this man. I am not speaking of the physical inability to walk. Each of us is spiritually lame before coming into the presence of him who can cure us of our every disease. Sin renders each of us incapable of walking on our own (Jer.10:23). Though the old adage states, "the legs of the lame are not always equal," in the case of our spiritual impotency, the legs of the lame really are equal (Rom.3:23). By virtue of our sins, we have been separated from the source of strength and life (Is.59:1-2). Not a single accountable soul can boast that he is walking of his own power and ability (Rom.3:10). Because we all have given in to our own lusts (Jas.1:13-15), each of us finds ourselves not only incapable of walking under our own power, but also unable to help those around us, for we are all in the same boat. Hopefully we see in this lame man our own helplessness without the Lord.

Second, I see the importance of having true friends. Many count as friends those who are not true friends. This man had friends who truly cared for his well-being. They had his best interest at heart. These friends knew that no one could help this man except Jesus. They realized their inability to help their friend by their own power, but they knew exactly where to turn. They bore him physically into the presence of Jesus. They refused to be discouraged at the odds against them. The crowd could not turn them aside from their task to bring their friend to Jesus. Oh that we had friends like these! We need friends who realize our undone condition without the Lord. We need friends who will help bear our burdens (Gal.6:1-2). We need friends who desire nothing more than to bring us into the presence of the Lord. We need friends who will not be discouraged in bringing us to Jesus. Far too many make very poor decisions regarding the selection of friends. It is one of the most vital choices we will ever make (1 Cor.15:33)!

Third, I see that no one can heal me but Jesus. This lame man could not rise up and walk of his own power. His friends, no matter how hard they might try, could not cause this one to rise up and walk. Only by the power of the Great Physician could this lame man have his ability to walk restored. He was made every whit whole, and that immediately. There is nowhere else for us to turn in order to be restored to complete spiritual wellness (Acts 4:12). Only one can cause us to rise from the doldrums of sin (Acts 2:38). Only one can cause us to walk anew (Rom.6:3-4). Jesus, the Great Physician, is still calling men to

“rise up and walk.” He is still telling us today, “Get up off that mat, because I can and will make you whole.” Do you need to be made whole today? Will you not come to the Lord that he might heal you of the blight of sin that now stains your soul? He can make you whole again!

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