

DESPERATE FOR GOD TO MOVE

Today, as we continue in our "Desperate for God to Move" series, we turn to Luke 5. Today, we're considering moments when we're "Desperate for God to Save" the people in our lives who don't know Christ. In Luke 5, we see a familiar story about a group of men who brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus because they were burdened for his healing. In this passage, we'll see the role of personal faith, the priority of spiritual healing over physical healing, and Jesus' authority to forgive sins. Today's passage also highlights the importance of persistent faith and prayer in leading others to salvation.

Key Passage: Luke 5:17-26

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the story of the paralyzed man in Luke 5 illustrate desperation for salvation?

Being "desperate for God to save" refers to a deep burden for a person who doesn't know Christ, recognizing that their salvation is the most important thing in life. It drives us to take bold actions and to pray for God to intervene in their lives. The men who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus showed desperation by tearing through the roof to get him to Jesus. Their actions demonstrate the lengths we should go in our efforts to see people come to faith in Jesus.

2. What does the passage reveal about the importance of personal faith in salvation?

While the faith of the paralyzed man's friends played a role, Jesus clarified that personal faith is necessary for salvation. Even though his friends took bold steps, it was ultimately the paralyzed man's faith in Jesus that led to his sins being forgiven.

3. What's the significance of Jesus addressing the man's sins before healing his physical condition? How does Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man prove His authority to forgive sins?

Jesus prioritized the man's spiritual need over his physical need, showing that salvation and forgiveness of sins are of greater importance than physical healing. This reflects the broader truth that spiritual healing is the ultimate miracle. By healing the man physically, Jesus demonstrated His divine authority to forgive sins. The physical miracle confirmed His power over both the physical and spiritual realms, which silenced the doubts of the Pharisees.

4. What role does faith play in seeing people come to Christ?

Faith, both of the individual seeking Christ and those praying for them, is essential in salvation. While we can be desperate for God to save others, their personal faith in Jesus is necessary for their salvation.

5. Why is salvation through Jesus described as exclusive and inclusive in this message?

Salvation is exclusive in that it is only available through Jesus. However, it is inclusive because anyone can be saved regardless of their background or circumstances if they put their faith in Jesus.

6. How can the friends' actions in Luke 5 encourage us in our efforts to bring people to Christ?

The friends' determination to get the paralyzed man to Jesus despite obstacles encourages us to be bold and persistent in sharing the gospel and bringing others to Christ, even when it seems difficult.

7. What does today's passage teach about the connection between physical healing and spiritual healing?

Today's passage shows that while physical healing is significant, spiritual healing (forgiveness of sins) is the greater need. Jesus used physical healing to point to the deeper need for spiritual healing.

8. How should this story impact how we pray for the salvation of others?

This story encourages us to pray with desperation and persistence, trusting that God can save! It should encourage us to take bold steps of faith, share the gospel, and depend on the Holy Spirit's work in drawing people to Christ.

9. What about this study has challenged you most? What's your biggest takeaway?