

Healing the Paralytic at Capernaum

Lesson # 36: (Mt. 9:1-8; Mk. 2:3-12; Lk. 5:18-26; Jn. 5; DA 201-213; 267-271)

In His public ministry Jesus healed many paralytics. In the next two lessons we will focus on the two most notorious: The healing of the paralytic in Capernaum and the restoration of the paralytic by the Pool of Bethesda. We will find in our study that these two episodes do not simply describe Christ's power to heal those who are physically maimed. They actually seek to teach that Jesus is able to heal those who are spiritually paralyzed by sin. Let's begin our study with the event in Capernaum.

The Paralytic's Desperate Plight

1. How do we know that this man's physical paralysis was due to his sinful habits? "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy _____ be forgiven thee." "It was to manifest His power to _____ sins that the miracle was performed." (Mk. 2:5; DA 267)
2. What was the paralytic's state of mind? "Like the leper, this paralytic had _____ all hope of recovery. His disease was the result of a life of _____, and his sufferings were embittered by _____." (DA 267)

Note: Many people in the world today are in the same situation as the paralytic. Due to wrong physical habits, a life of sin and cankering remorse, they have just about lost hope.

3. From whom had the paralytic sought help and what was their response? "He had long before appealed to the Pharisees and doctors, hoping for _____ from mental suffering and physical pain. But they _____ pronounced him incurable, and abandoned him to the _____ of God." (DA 267)
4. How much could the paralytic do for himself? "The palsied man was _____ helpless, and, seeing no prospect of _____ from any quarter, he had sunk into despair." (DA 267)

Note: The world is filled with people such as this paralytic. They have no power within themselves to remove their guilt and relieve their physical suffering. Their only hope is to receive help from a source outside themselves—Jesus Christ

Hope in Jesus

1. What gave the paralytic a glimmer of hope? "Then he _____ of the wonderful works of Jesus. He was told that others as sinful and helpless as he had been _____; even lepers had been cleansed." (DA 267)

2. Who encouraged the paralytic to seek out Jesus? “And the _____ who reported these things encouraged him to believe that he too might be _____ if he could be carried to Jesus.” (DA 267)

Note: The paralytic could have ignored the counsel of his friends. In the depths of his despair he could have told them that he had lost hope. But he chose to listen to their counsel and to seek out Jesus. Frequently good counsel from friends can lead desperate souls to the feet of Jesus.

3. What was the paralytic’s deepest fear? “But his _____ fell when he remembered how the disease had been brought upon him. He feared that the _____ Physician would not _____ him in His presence.” (DA 267)

Note: Today there are many who feel that they are too sinful to come to Jesus. But these are the very ones Jesus is attracting to Himself. The Savior has made the immutable promise: “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” (Jn. 6:37)

4. Was physical healing foremost in the paralytic’s mind? “Yet it was not physical restoration he desired so much as relief from the _____ of sin. If he could see Jesus, and receive the _____ of forgiveness and _____ with Heaven, he would be content to live or die, according to God's will.” (DA 267)

Note: The paralytic’s innermost desire stands in contrast to many of those who followed Jesus. Great multitudes often flocked to Jesus because they wished to be delivered from physical suffering. John 6:1-2, for example, explains that many followed Jesus because of the signs which He performed. And today many people look upon Jesus as a faith healer and not as a deliverer from the stroke of sin.

The Paralytic Visits Jesus

1. Who’s idea was it to take the paralytic to Jesus? “He besought his _____ to carry him on his bed to Jesus, and this they _____ undertook to do.” (DA 267)

Note: Though His friends spoke to Him about Jesus, the decision to visit the Lord was the paralytic’s. Our friends can encourage us to come to Jesus but the decision to actually come must be ours.

2. What type of audience was present when Jesus healed the paralytic? “Outside of these officials thronged the _____ multitude, the eager, the reverent, the curious, and the unbelieving. Different _____ and all _____ of society were represented.” (DA 267-68)

3. How did the spirit of the Pharisees contrast with that of the paralytic? “The Spirit of life brooded over the assembly, but Pharisees and doctors did not _____ its presence. They felt no sense of _____, and the healing was not for them.” (DA 268)

Note: What a contrast between the paralytic and the Pharisees. He discerned the presence of the Holy Spirit and was healed. They rejected the work of the Holy Spirit and were hardened!

4. Who suggested that the paralytic be let down from the roof? “At _____ suggestion his friends bore him to the top of the house and, _____ up the roof, let him down at the feet of Jesus.” (DA 268)

Note: This man had a faith which was not to be denied. In spite of the apparently insurmountable obstacle of the crowd, he tenaciously sought out Jesus. We must not allow anything to stand in the way of finding Jesus!

5. Who convicted the paralytic of his sin and when? “He [Jesus] had _____ to Himself that perplexed and doubting spirit. While the paralytic was yet at _____, the Savior had brought conviction to his conscience.” (DA 268)

Note: In the Gospel of John we find a description of this attracting power of Jesus: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” (Jn. 12:32)

Jesus Heals the Paralytic

1. How did the paralytic feel when Jesus made the declaration, “Your sins are forgiven”? “The burden of despair _____ from the sick man's soul; the peace of forgiveness rests upon his spirit, and _____ out upon his countenance.” (DA 268)
2. How had the Pharisees responded to this man's cries? “They recollected how the man had appealed to them for help, and they had _____ him hope or sympathy. Not satisfied with this, they had declared that he was suffering the _____ of God for his sins.” (DA 268)
3. What did the Pharisees fear most when Jesus healed this man? “They marked the _____ with which all were watching the scene, and they felt a terrible _____ of losing their own influence over the people.” (DA 268)
4. How complete was this man's physical healing? “Then he who had been borne on a litter to Jesus rises to his feet with the _____ and strength of youth. The life-giving blood bounds through his veins. Every _____ of his body springs into sudden activity. The glow of _____ succeeds the pallor of approaching death.” (DA 269)

5. By who's power was the paralytic healed? "It required nothing less than _____ power to restore health to that decaying body. The _____ voice that spoke life to man created from the dust of the earth had spoken life to the dying paralytic. And the same power that gave life to the body had _____ the heart." (DA 269-70)

6. What does Ellen White say concerning the psychosomatic link between physical and spiritual illness? "The spiritual healing was followed by physical restoration. This lesson should not be overlooked. There are today thousands suffering from _____ disease, who, like the paralytic, are longing for the message, "Thy sins are forgiven." The burden of sin, with its unrest and unsatisfied desires, is the _____ of their maladies. They can find no relief until they come to the _____ of the soul. The peace which He alone can give, would impart vigor to the mind, and health to the _____." (DA 270)

- 7.: How does Ellen White describe the intimate link between our physical and spiritual natures? "Since the mind and the soul find _____ through the body, both mental and spiritual vigor are in great degree _____ upon physical strength and activity; whatever promotes" (Child Guidance, pp. 360-61)

8. What effect did this healing have upon the Pharisees? "They were disconcerted and abashed, _____, but not _____, the presence of a superior being. The stronger the evidence that Jesus had power on earth to forgive sins, the more firmly they _____ themselves in unbelief. From the home of Peter, where they had seen the paralytic restored by His word, they went away to invent new schemes for _____ the Son of God." (DA 270-71)

9. What is ever more terrible than physical disease? "Physical disease, however malignant and deep-seated, was healed by the power of Christ; but the disease of the _____ took a firmer hold upon those who closed their _____ against the light. Leprosy and palsy were not so terrible as _____ and unbelief." (DA 271)

10. How does Ellen White describe the complete physical healing of this man? "He stood before them in the full _____ of manhood. Those _____ that they had seen lifeless were quick to obey his will. The flesh that had been shrunken and leaden-hued was now fresh and ruddy. He _____ with a firm, free step. Joy and hope were written in every lineament of his _____; and an expression of purity and _____ had taken the place of the marks of sin and suffering." (DA 271)

11. What effect did the healing of the paralytic have upon his family? "This man and his family were ready to lay down their _____ for Jesus. No doubt dimmed their faith, no unbelief marred their _____ to Him who had brought light into their darkened home." (DA 271)

