

Luke 5:17-26 (NIV)

Bringing Others to Jesus!

West Baptist Church

5th February 2017

The title of my message this morning would be “**Let the Power of what God can do motivate you**” or “**Bringing others to Jesus.**” Let’s open our Bibles together and hear the word of God from “**the Gospel of Luke 5:17-26.**”

Can you imagine if we are going to do a big conference here at West Baptist Church on next Saturday afternoon, so our Pastor Andrew Sangster is going to preach here. Many people will come to listen to his message, the room will be full and the car park will be full. People are so crowded. Those people include theological professors, pastors, and other people those are sitting inside the main hall, while outside some people will bring a poor sick man or a paralysed man here to West, in a helicopter or ambulance. While Pastor Andrew is preaching, everyone is focusing and concentrating on his message. The people who bring this sick man to Pastor Andrew can’t go inside directly through the front door because of the crowds, so they break the roof and suddenly put down this paralysed man from the roof, in front of Pastor Andrew.

All people inside the church are surprised because those people, the sick man’s friends, are breaking the rules, by breaking the roof and they will have to pay for it. I am sure the people of West who look after this property, like Alison, Roi, John, Wayne and other people will have something very strong to say. But the story is not about that– it’s not about the cost! They don’t care about the cost because they just want to bring this sick man to Pastor Andrew. The story is about the urgency-the desire of those people to reach out to Pastor Andrew. Because of their confident faith that Pastor Andrew could heal their friend, so they have a great hope and determination. They trust that Pastor Andrew is a powerful and godly man and they probably have heard, seen and experienced about Andrew before they came with their friend.

The story of Luke illustrates the importance of others’ faith. This is especially shown in verse 20 where is said, *when Jesus saw their faith, he said “Friend, your sins are forgiven.* Because of the faith of the other people, who have brought the paralysed man to Jesus, Jesus forgives this sick man’s sins and heals his body. Here Jesus mentions the faith of others. They believe that Jesus has the power to heal; therefore, they bring this sick man to Jesus. Here, Faith is

very important part of the story. There are many Scriptures of faith in the Bible. I would like to read this great scripture from Hebrews about faith. Hebrews 11:1, “*now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*” The scripture tells us that faith is confidence.

➤ **What is confidence?**

Here is the Dictionary definition of confidence.

Full trust; belief in the powers, trustworthiness, self-confidence; self-reliance; assurance. Here, those four friends of the sick man have complete confidence in the Power of Christ. Let us have a closer look at these verses in this story. Verse 18 tells us that there was a man who was ‘paralyzed’ or ‘sick with palsy,’ so he could not walk or get around on his own and he was completely bedridden and suffering greatly.

The Gospel of Mark 2:3 also tells us about this story and says that *this man had four friends who were very good friends indeed.* Those four friends of this sick man know Jesus because they have probably heard and experienced the Power of Jesus in the past: maybe they have seen a lot of Jesus miracle stories- healings, feedings and so on. Therefore, they believed that if they could just get him to Jesus, he would be healed. Because Jesus had already performed many miracles of healing, so the four friends carried this poor sick man, in confident faith, to the house where Jesus was.

In verse 19, there are many blockages. When those friends of this sick man got to the house, they couldn’t reach Jesus because of the crowd.

➤ **What could they do?**

They could leave this paralysed man outside the door until Jesus comes out, so Jesus can see him, or they can wait for him. Their friend is not dying, he is not very seriously sick. They are not calling ambulance at Auckland Hospital. But their faith in Christ gives them urgency and confidence; maybe they don’t want to wait; they try it again and again and they do not give up.

➤ **Why were the friends so anxious and why did they make that decision so quickly?**

Because their faith in Christ assured them of what they could not see. They know that breaking the rules for someone’s house; they will have to pay for it. It’s a loss for the person

who own the house, but for the friends, it was more important to reach Jesus. That was their focus!

Here are people listening and concentrating carefully to what Jesus was saying, and then Boop...boop! The roof is suddenly broken. In those days, to cut the roof would not have been easy at all, because they do not have a nice machine and knife, so they would have needed to use their hands, feet and other tools to make a hole but they are not worried about that. To get the sick man through the hole it would have to be quite big. Maybe even six feet wide.

➤ **What was the emergency?**

What was the emergency for that moment for those people to break the rules and not be able to wait outside the door? They didn't give up; why they do not wait until the crowds had disappeared? There was always tomorrow. But these men knew that their friend needed help, so they didn't let the crowd stop them. While we can't force the gospel on people, we should communicate the urgency of getting sins forgiven and getting healing. *Paul says in 2 Cor. 6:2, "Now is the day of salvation".*

In verse 20 says "When Jesus seeing their faith, he forgives a paralysed man.

➤ **Why did Jesus say your sins are forgiven?**

Jesus says that because he is the Son of Man and the Son of God. So **verse 24** says, *He has the authority on earth to forgive sins and verse 7 also says the Power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.* Here Jesus is not just talking about the sick person's faith, the story is also about those who are helping the person and bringing the sick man to Jesus. Those friends showed faith and confidence in what they hope for and assurance about what they could not see. In other places in the New Testament, we see prayers for sick people being offered to God, in faith. For example, *James 5:14-15 say that* ¹⁴*"is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.* ¹⁵*And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."*

Also, in Luke 7:9, we read about the centurion's great faith in Jesus to heal his servant. Verse 9 says when Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." These verses make us ask the question "Can Jesus heal me even if I do not have faith?" Sometimes

people are struggling because they don't have enough faith. These verses suggest that even if we don't have faith, if people around us have faith, we can still be healed. How does this work? The Bible often says that you must confess or you must have faith to be healed.

For example, in *Luke 8:48*, Jesus said to a woman, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." Also *Luke 18:42*, Jesus said to a man, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." However, in the story of the man going to the roof, we see that there is no mention if the sick man has faith or doesn't have faith, we don't know anything about his faith. The reality of this story is that Jesus looks at the faith of those who are bringing this sick man to Jesus. The faith of those friends who are trusting Jesus for this sick man to be healed.

➤ **Where did they get this faith? Where do they find this confidence?**

Because, they have seen the power of Jesus in the past and they have heard a lot of Jesus miracle stories- healings, feedings and hearings. Maybe they have been healed themselves or their family members or some friends have been healed. So, they have not forgotten what they heard and they have not forgotten that they have seen "*the Power of Jesus.*" That's grown their faith. When we want somebody to be healed physically or spiritually or whatever "*Do we remember the power of God?*" We can have that faith to bring other people to Jesus; many times we are worried that this is a big sickness you know. The sickness is very big but do we remember that Jesus is the biggest one and he can do anything. Do we remember what Jesus has done for me or for us and this will grow our faith?

In my life, I am a Christian and I am serving God as a woman. Sometimes I feel down and I really want to give up my life what I am doing right now because I have been struggling with many challenges which include language barriers, different culture, and religion and so on. But one of the things I noticed that is my Mum who has a strong Christian faith and my family, those people are always praying for me at the back of my life, so I could stand here in front of you all today. Their faith helps me to encourage and grow my faith as well. They bring me closer to Jesus by prayer. So, I strongly believe that bringing others to Jesus is very important for us as Christians. We are Christians and we know Jesus, so we need to bring others to Jesus as well.

Through this passage of **Luke 5:17-26** –

1. Who is your paralysed friend?

Maybe your spouse/family/friends/community - we want to help because we know Jesus.

2. How do we know Jesus?

We are Christians; so we have heard, seen and experienced many things about the power of God in our life. It's like the four friends who knew Jesus; they brought the sick man to Jesus? We need to take people who haven't known Jesus or who haven't heard Jesus, we need to bring them to Jesus.

3. How can we get there?

We can get there through **faith**. Faith will give us confidence and give us hope. Because there are many blockages- finance, different society, different culture, different religion, too many people- get tired- (different process).

4. How do we try? How do we go?

We can go through creative ways to learn from others because we don't want to give up-we need to find ways to Jesus (to take time to do, tools and actions - learning from others how to share).

5. Who can forgive their/our sins and heal their/our sicknesses, pains and sufferings?

Only Jesus can forgive our sins and their sins, and also he can heal our sicknesses, pains and suffering because Jesus is the Son of Man who has authority on earth to forgive sins (v.24) and the Power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick (v. 7). Here Luke says in verse 20, *“when Jesus saw their faith, he forgives and heals a paralysed man.”*

Brothers and sisters, please take a few moments to think and imagine!

- **Who is your paralysed friend (that may be spiritually or physically or mentally) (**
Maybe your spouse/ your family/your friends/your community)

- **How could you help them in a creative way?** (But not through cutting West Baptist Church's roof) I mean how could we bring these people to Jesus in a creative way? Even if we think we can do nothing, we can at least bring them to Jesus in prayer.

I would like to encourage you to think about this more later on!