

Sermon ~ Sunday, March 12, 2023, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Luke 5: 17-26

Title: "My Prayer, This Barrier and Me!"

The importance to **Prayer** and **Praying** is my (our) *relationship* with **GOD** through **JESUS CHRIST!** **Prayer** and *praying, communing with GOD* is like being "in a boat on this vast sea of life, and you're pulling a rope, tied securely to the Shore." Pulling the rope, toward you, does not pull the Shore to yourself, but yourself, to the Shore!

Yet, to often, there are 'barriers:' [uncontrollable tides, winds, storms/rains; blockades, impediments, obstacles, hindrances, walls, crowds, a roof, sin...] that stands between me, you, and **JESUS: GOD in JESUS... The SON of GOD: The Only SOMEONE Chosen and Anointed as GOD'S Representative... The SON of man: JESUS WHO is GOD (Divine) WHO** lived as a man, (in flesh)— "...was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4: 15) And **HIS Power, Promises** and **Purpose**... 'barriers' that stands between 'me' ...

[I don't know about you... I must get to JESUS! *Imagine if... What if...* I keep waking up every Day to this affliction and looks/looking? *What if,* I just give up? *What if,* I keep listening to them who say, "Get over it?" It is, what it is!]

"My Prayer, This Barrier and Me!"

This text and passage is, "*critical,*" in that it deals with 'the most important' issue that ever *confronted* all humankind. That is, our need to be Forgiven! Truly Forgiven of *sin!* If so, **WHO** has the power to forgive us, of this dreaded sting of *Sin?*

Note, the text speaks of "the pardoning of," the need to be forgiven, aphesis, (af'es-is), that is, the *dismissal* of; the need for something to be sent away; the releasing of someone from obligation or debt...

And there is "the healing" of a man, "...which was taking with a palsy..." said (v. 18a). Doctor Luke, who was a *Physician* and *Disciple* of **JESUS**, does not use the verb "paralelumenos", that is, this man was not '*paralyze,*' unable to move, due to some *physical sickness*, but, an *adjective*, "paralytikos" meaning, this man was '*paralyzed*' do to "*unforgiven sin!*" Luke said, "...a man which was taken with a palsy...v. 18—a Spiritual condition, noted on the inside of him by **JESUS**, shown outwardly" ... while Matthew 4: 24 said, "those who had palsy, was brought to **JESUS**" and Mark 2: 3, "one sick of palsy, was brought to **JESUS**" for healing, denotes their physical condition," seen only outwardly, but not inwardly.

Point: "They sought help!!!"

The 'man taken with a palsy—unable to walk' sought the help of **JESUS**... the four friends, who carried their friend—sought the help of **JESUS**... The man who was *unable* to help himself, knew he needed forgiveness and wholeness himself... Yet he needed to have help... the help of **JESUS** and his friends. The same was true for the *four friends* of the man. They were unable to provide 'forgiveness' and 'wholeness' to each other. They, too, knew that they needed the help of **JESUS** and of one another. Church, its necessary, we seek **JESUS', HELP!** Church, cry with me, **JESUS Help!!!**

Point: “They believed and had Confidence in JESUS’ Power to forgive Sins and to Heal.”

They believed that if they came, **JESUS** had the Power to help, and that **HE** loved and cared enough to help.

The *hick* with *inconveniences* and *difficulties*, we have to face. The man is bedridden. We got to pick him up with his bed... we have to carry him from where he is to where **JESUS** is—over there, down the streets, to the house, where **JESUS** is... no time for *Imagining if... What if...* Their looks/looking? Their seeing and telling us, we tried to get in, but couldn’t, because it to crowded...

[Note. The Text said, v. 19, “...they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude...” Luke points out, “it was the greatness of the crowd that cause the problem.” The bigness of the crowd can often be a hindrance to the work of **CHRIST**, as it was here.

Point: If we are not breaking attendance records and packing out the church-house, it does not mean we cannot get “a man—a friend” and “ourselves to **JESUS!!!**”

Point: “They persisted despite all the difficulties!”

The crowd was in their way, *but* they did not give up! They were *noticed* but *ignored*, *but* they did not give up! They were *denied* getting *through*, so they went around... another way... a different way... to the side... around the back... saw some stairs that led *up*, to the *roof*...

[you can always put a *roof* back together, but never, do you want to die in *sin*]

They started tearing up another man’s *roof*... but that’s nothing that **JESUS** can’t handle.

[The earth is **The LORD’S** and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.]

Point: “They knew JESUS could Help and Heal!”

Do know, “pardoning of our *sin(s)* is much more important than the healing of our ills!

You can get to Heaven in spite of a sick body, but you cannot get to Heaven without **The Divine Pardoning** of your sins!

Don’t be surprised, “*critics* will protest about you getting **JESUS’** help and healing.”

The *crowds* are full of them... the *church-houses* are full of them... the *religious establishments* are full of them... the *leading ones*—scribes, Phar-i-sees, Sadd-u-cees, Satan loves to use his *little dogs*, who think themselves big dogs to “*yelp*” you into distraction from **JESUS!**

But **JESUS** always *sees Faith in HIM*... **JESUS** always *rewards Faith in HIM*... [Hebrews 11: 6]

Note, **JESUS** did not say, “Man, **GOD** forgives your sins.” **HE** said, (v. 24) “**I say unto thee...**”

[**I forgive your sins.**] [**“Arise...”** **JESUS** is in the *rising* business... “**Take up thy couch...**” roll-up your pallet—when we are healed and **REDEEMED**, we do more with **HIM** now...

“Go into thine house...” best place to start is home...

“I’m A Testimony”

Look at me, I’m a Testimony,

I didn’t make it on my own, I’m not standing here all alone.

It is **JESUS WHO** gave me this opportunity, Look at me, I’m a Testimony!

Verse:

(It’s **JESUS**) **WHO** made me a possibility,

(Nobody but **JESUS**) **WHO** never gave up on me.

(**JESUS**) **WHO** put all **HIS** trust in me, (**JESUS**) found me, fixed me, and decided to use me!

Look at me, I’m a Testimony!