

Apr 07, 2024



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Faith of the Persistent Luke 5:17-26

Lesson Background and Introduction

The third Gospel and the book of Acts were written by a man named Luke. He was a traveling companion of the apostle Paul and a physician by profession (see Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24). Because Luke was not an eyewitness to the ministry of Jesus, he gathered his information from those who had been so he could write a detailed account (Luke 1:1-4). Most students believe that the Gospel of Mark was written first and, therefore, could have been one of the sources used by Luke. The scene in today's lesson is worded quite similarly to Mark 2:1-12 (but see Luke 5:17; compare Matthew 9:1-8). Today's lesson locates Jesus in Galilee, early in his three-and-a-half-year ministry. His popularity was rising, and he was drawing crowds. The news of Jesus' teaching and miracles was spreading rapidly (Luke 4:37), and attempts to keep things under control in that regard didn't work (5:14-15). As a result, Jesus had to make a conscious effort to carve out some "alone time" for prayer with his heavenly Father (4:42; 5:16). Luke 5:12 states that the healing miracle just prior to the one in today's text occurred "in one of the towns" of Galilee. Mark 2:1 is more specific in indicating that the events of today's lesson took place in Capernaum. This town, located on the northwestern bank of the Sea of Galilee, became something of a headquarters for Jesus during his tours of Galilee (Matthew 4:13).

Social media has changed the world's concept of friendship. Only time will tell whether a new word is needed to distinguish between a virtual social-media friend and an authentic real-life friend. In the meantime, many will continue to post online as we prepare for our next move and patiently wait for our 300 so-called friends to show up. The friends in today's lesson remind us of the nature of authentic friendship. We are unsure how long they had been carrying their friend around on this bed. We know that when Jesus came into the city, they believed he could help their friend. However, they did not stop at simply believing. They put their faith into action and brought their friend to Jesus, overcoming every obstacle on the way. It was not an easy task to get their friend onto the roof, tear it apart, and lower him into the room. Undoubtedly, they could have spent their time on other matters that day. How can you dedicate your time and resources to assisting a friend in need?

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Jesus inspires us, let's seek to persistently pray and never give up. In His time and perfect way, God will answer

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Dear Jesus, I thank You for answering my persistent prayers

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart

(Luke 18:1 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 16, 2023)

Series: Examining Our Faith

UNIT 2: The Measure of Faith

NEXT WEEK

**Faith of a Centurion
(Luke 7:1-10)**

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Persistent in Faith that Seeks (Luke 5:17-20)

Seeking a power (17-18)

A power that has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt 28:18)

A power that has power over all things (John 13:3)

A power to do good and heal (Acts 10:38)

A power of being God in the flesh (Col 2:9)

A power that has the power of God (1 Cor 1:23-25)

Seeking a way (18-19)

A way that is right and just (Deut 32:4)

A way that is righteous in all ways and deeds (Ps 145:17)

A way that is right because of being the creator (Rom 9:20-21)

A way that is blameless (Ps 18:30-31)

A way that is perfect (Matt 5:48)

Seeking healing (20)

A healing that is done inwardly (2 Cor 4:16)

A healing that accompanies forgiveness (2 Chron 7:14)

A healing that restores from a deadly malady (1 Peter 2:24)

A healing that heals the heart (Ps 147:3)

A healing that cleanses (Heb 9:14)

Persistent in Faith that Finds (Luke 5:21-26)

Finding forgiveness (21)

Forgiveness is needed because all will face judgment (Heb 9:27)

Forgiveness is needed because of being accountable to God (Rom 14:12)

Forgiveness is needed because God will avenge (Rom 12:18-20)

Forgiveness is needed because it is one way of showing gratitude (Ps 116:12)

Forgiveness is needed because of remembering God's blessings (Ps 103:2-3)

Finding understanding (22-23)

Understanding is given to those of the kingdom of God (Mark 4:11)

Understanding draws people to God (Deut 4:6)

Understanding comes through the reading of God's word (Eph 3:2-4)

Understanding comes from living wisely (Eph 5:15-17)

Understanding comes from reflecting on God's word (2 Tim. 2:7)

Finding healing through faith (24)

Faith based on seeking the God that exists (Heb 11:6)

Faith that trusts God and His deliverance (Ps 78:21-22)

Faith that believes that everything is possible (Mark 9:21-24)

Faith of a touch (Matt 9:20-22)

Faith despite obstacles (Matt 15:22-28)

Finding results in glorifying God (25-26)

Glorify God through unity (Rom 15:5-6)

Glorify God through living a godly life (1 Peter 2:12)

Glorify God through doing good works (Matt 5:16)

Glorify God in our bodies (1 Cor 6:20)

Glorify God through suffering for Christ (1 Peter 4:16)