

Prologue: The Power to Heal and Forgive

The Presswood family sat together in their cozy living room, the soft light of the lamp casting a peaceful glow on the walls. Ariel had just finished reading Luke 5:17-26, the story of the paralyzed man who was healed by Jesus. She was lost in thought, trying to grasp the deep meaning of the miracle. Alice, holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to carry her toy “paralyzed” bunny to Jesus for healing.

“Daddy,” Ariel began thoughtfully, “Why did Jesus forgive the man’s sins before He healed him? Isn’t it more important to heal someone’s body first, especially if they’re paralyzed?”

Ryan smiled, appreciating Ariel’s curiosity. “That’s an excellent question, Ariel. In this story, Jesus did something surprising—He forgave the man’s sins before healing his body. By doing that, He was showing that His authority went beyond physical healing. He wanted to make it clear that **sin** is the deeper issue that needs healing in every person’s life. While physical healing is important, Jesus’ primary mission was to forgive sins and restore people’s relationship with God. By forgiving the man’s sins, Jesus was demonstrating that He had the authority not just to heal the body, but to **forgive** sins—a power that only God could have.”

Ariel thought about it for a moment. “So, Jesus was showing that spiritual healing—being forgiven—is just as important, if not more, than physical healing?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Exactly. Jesus wanted to show that **spiritual restoration**—being made right with God—is the ultimate form of healing. And by forgiving the man’s sins first, He was proving that He had the authority to do both: heal physically and forgive spiritually.”

Ariel nodded, beginning to understand the depth of the story. “I think I see. Jesus wasn’t just a healer—He was the **Savior**, offering forgiveness and restoration to the man’s soul, too.”

“Right,” Ryan said. “Let’s use the Time Audit Machine to go back and witness this incredible moment when Jesus not only healed a paralyzed man but also showed His authority to forgive sins, leaving everyone astonished.”

The Journey Begins: Jesus Teaching in a Crowded House (Luke 5:17-19)

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves inside a crowded **house** in **Capernaum**. The room was packed with people eager to hear Jesus teach. The air was thick with anticipation, and many had come from all over Galilee and Judea, including **Pharisees** and **teachers of the law**, who had gathered to listen. Jesus was teaching and healing, and the people were hanging on His every word.

“This is the house in Capernaum where Jesus was teaching,” Ryan said, pointing to the packed room. “Jesus had become famous by now for His miraculous healings and powerful teachings. But what’s

interesting about this particular moment is that it sets the stage for something much deeper—Jesus is going to demonstrate His authority in a way that no one expects.”

Ariel looked around at the crowded room. “It must have been so hard to get close to Jesus with so many people there. They were all trying to get a glimpse of Him.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “And that’s when we see the **faith** of some people who are willing to do anything to get to Jesus.”

The Paralyzed Man is Lowered Through the Roof (*Luke 5:18-19*)

As the crowd pressed in, a group of men arrived carrying their friend, who was paralyzed. They wanted to bring him to Jesus, but because of the crowd, they couldn’t get near Him. So, they came up with an unexpected plan—they decided to **lower the man through the roof** of the house where Jesus was teaching.

“And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before Him. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.” (Luke 5:18-19)

Ariel’s eyes widened. “They lowered him through the roof?! That’s so creative! And a little crazy! But they really believed Jesus could heal him.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Their faith and determination are amazing. They weren’t discouraged by the obstacles—they knew that Jesus could heal their friend, and they were willing to go to great lengths to bring him to Jesus. This shows us that **faith** sometimes requires us to do things outside of the ordinary and to trust God in unconventional ways.”

Ariel smiled, understanding the lesson. “They didn’t let the crowd stop them. They believed so much in Jesus that they made a way to bring their friend to Him.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Their faith was strong enough to overcome any obstacles, and that faith played a role in what happened next.”

Jesus Forgives and Heals the Paralyzed Man (*Luke 5:20-24*)

When Jesus saw the **faith** of the men who brought the paralyzed man, He responded in a way that shocked everyone. Instead of immediately healing the man’s body, Jesus said to him:

“And when He saw their faith, He said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.” (Luke 5:20)

Ariel was surprised. “Jesus forgave his sins first? But the man was paralyzed! Why didn’t He just heal him right away?”

“Great observation,” Ryan said. “Jesus knew that the man’s **greatest need** was spiritual. By forgiving his sins, Jesus was demonstrating His authority to heal not just physically, but spiritually. In Jewish

culture, many people believed that sickness was the result of sin, so Jesus addressed the root issue first. His act of forgiveness would reveal His divine authority and point to the deeper work of restoration He came to do in people's lives."

The Pharisees and teachers of the law, who were listening, were shocked and offended by what Jesus said. They murmured among themselves, questioning how Jesus could forgive sins, since only God could do that. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, responded to them:

"But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?" (Luke 5:22)

Ariel thought for a moment. "Jesus was showing them that forgiving sins and healing the body are both impossible for humans to do, but not for God. He's showing that He has the authority to do both."

"Yes," Ryan said. "By forgiving the man's sins and then healing him, Jesus was showing that He was **God in the flesh**. He had the power to heal physically, but more importantly, He had the authority to forgive sins, something only God could do."

The Miraculous Healing: A Sign of Jesus' Authority (*Luke 5:25-26*)

Jesus then turned to the paralyzed man and said:

"But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, He said unto the sick of the palsy, I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house." (Luke 5:24)

Immediately, the man was healed—he stood up, took his mat, and walked out in front of everyone. The people were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have seen strange things today." (Luke 5:26)

Ariel was amazed. "He did it! The man was healed, and everyone saw it. Jesus showed that He wasn't just healing the body—He was demonstrating that He had the **power to forgive sins** and heal the soul."

"Yes," Ryan said, "this moment is a powerful demonstration of Jesus' authority. By healing the man's body, Jesus confirmed that He had the divine power to forgive sins. This was a turning point in His ministry, as He made it clear that He wasn't just a healer—He was the **Savior**, sent to restore people's relationship with God."

Reflection: Jesus' Authority to Forgive and Heal

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on the miraculous events they had just witnessed. Ariel turned to her father, her heart filled with understanding. Alice, still with Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to heal her toys again.

"Jesus didn't just heal the man—He forgave him first," Ariel said softly. "It shows that our biggest need isn't just for physical healing, but for forgiveness. Jesus came to restore us to God, not just to fix our bodies."

“Yes,” Ryan said, “and that’s what’s so amazing about this story. Jesus’ healing miracles were powerful, but the greater miracle was that He had the authority to forgive sins. **Forgiveness** is the ultimate healing—restoring us to God, fixing what’s broken in our hearts, and giving us peace with Him.”

Ariel smiled. “So, Jesus’ miracles were signs of His authority as the Son of God. He showed that He could heal our bodies and our souls.”

Ryan smiled at Ariel’s insight. “That’s right. Jesus didn’t just heal the man physically—He addressed the root cause of his suffering: **sin**. And He didn’t just heal the body; He restored the man’s relationship with God. This story shows us that the power of Jesus goes beyond physical healing. **Forgiveness** is the ultimate form of healing—it’s the restoration of the heart and soul, and Jesus offers that to all of us.”

Ariel, reflecting on her father’s words, smiled. “So, Jesus wasn’t just a healer—He was also the **Savior**. He came to fix what was broken in our hearts, to forgive us and bring us back to God.”

Ryan nodded. “Exactly. And just like the paralyzed man, we all have areas in our lives where we need healing—physically, spiritually, or emotionally. Jesus’ authority to heal and forgive is available to all who trust in Him. His work on the cross provides the ultimate healing for our souls.”

Ariel’s eyes brightened as the deeper meaning settled in. “And when we trust Jesus, we don’t just get healed physically—we also get to be **forgiven**. That’s the biggest miracle of all!”

Ryan smiled proudly. “Yes, Ariel, you’ve got it! **Forgiveness** is the greatest gift Jesus offers, and the healing of the body is just one way that He shows us His love and authority. He is the one who can make us whole—inside and out.”

Takeaway: Jesus’ Power to Heal and Forgive Sins

In Luke 5:17-26, Jesus shows that He has authority over both physical and spiritual realms. While healing the paralyzed man was a miraculous demonstration of His divine power, it was His ability to **forgive sins** that revealed His true identity as the Son of God. Jesus did not just heal the man’s body; He healed his soul by forgiving his sins, proving that spiritual restoration is the true form of healing. This powerful story reminds us that, while physical healing is important, our greatest need is forgiveness—being restored to God. Jesus, with His authority to forgive and heal, offers this profound gift to all who come to Him in faith, inviting us to experience complete healing of the body, soul, and spirit.