



~ You Can Make Me Whole – Part 2 ~

“But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” – Luke 5:24

In Luke chapter 5, we find two stories back to back from the life and work of Jesus when He was on earth. While there are many truths in both stories to be unpacked and learned, one theme prevails – the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins.

In the story of the leper, we see Jesus cleanse the leper of his disease the same way that He wants to cleanse us of ours – by the touch of His hand. Not merely a word spoken, but the touch of love that shows value and worth in the man underneath the disease.

The story of the paralytic is of the same vein. (*Luke 5:17-25*) Here we read of a man paralyzed that has to be brought by friends. They persist to bring him to Jesus but to no avail and resort to tearing the roof apart and letting the paralytic down thru the opening to land right before Jesus. The scripture records, “When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” – Luke 5:20

Let me paint a picture for you. Jesus is standing (or sitting) in the middle of a house surrounded by priests, rulers, his disciples, and a multitude of people of different backgrounds. He is teaching them of the things of God and the people are listening to every word. Luke 5:17 gives us the picture, “Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. **And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.**”

Here were all these people listening and not even realizing that the Spirit of God was brooding over, hovering around them. None of them discerned His presence. None of them felt a sense of need and so the healing could not be for them. “He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.” – Luke 1:53

The only one to receive healing was someone who had to persevere thru dire circumstances to even come in the presence of Jesus. So great was his felt need that he persisted until a solution could be found for him to come before the Great Healer. Each step of persistence only seemed to make his determination and faith grow stronger.

When Jesus saw him, the man did not say a word. The man was obviously in need of physical healing, yet that wasn't what Jesus addressed first. Jesus read his heart and knew the man's real need was forgiveness and restored relationship with God. That was the quest this man was

on. The physical healing that resulted after was simply an effect of his spiritual healing. It took the power of God for both, but the real need was addressed first – forgiveness and cleansing from God.

Today, God wants to open our eyes to our great need. Like the paralytic, we have no hope of recovery on our own. It requires nothing less than creative power to restore health to our decaying soul. But, the same voice that *“spoke, and it was done; commanded, and it stood fast”* (Ps. 33:9) is able to heal and restore our souls from the rampages of sin. When Jesus healed the paralytic physically, it was simply evidence of the power that renewed his heart at the first.

Open up your heart to God so that you can discern His power among you that you might be healed. Don't get taken away by the cares of this world that you stop feeling your need and thereby stop recognizing God's presence in your life that can change you and heal you.

Like the paralytic, continue to persist in your quest to draw near to Jesus daily. Persevere in seeking Him out until you hear those beautiful words to your own soul, *“Man/woman, your sins are forgiven you”*.

Kimberly Mills

Elijah Road Ministries Devotionals



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