**December 4, 2016 “Your Sins are Forgiven” Luke 5: 17-26**

Whenever I read and study the Word of God, I have to constantly remind myself not to hurry through a particular passage and in doing so miss some of the great truths that are contained therein. I think this passage in Luke could fit into the realm of hurrying through without taking time to comprehend all that is going on in this rendition of the healing of this paralyzed man.

For example, how often when we read this passage do we realize that it has now been 30+ years from time that the angel appeared unto Mary?

How often do we think that Jesus lived in days very similar to that in which we live? Do we take the time to reflect on what it might have been like to live in the days described in the various Bible stories?

Do we take the time to consider the events that have transpired or are transpiring so that we can to the best of our ability understand what is being taught to us?

Do we or did we put ourselves into mindset of those whose memories still bear the scars of those who experienced the wrath of Herod in Bethlehem just a short 30 years ago?

Do we read Luke 5 without remembering that just one chapter earlier Jesus was being tempted by the devil in the wilderness?

Do we remember that in His hometown, He stood up in the synagogue and declared that the “Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim the release of the captives and recovery of sight to the blind. To see free those who are oppressed and to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

And they took Him out of town to throw Him off a cliff???

Do we remember that the demons came out at His command? And even in this chapter do we remember that the catching of the load of fish was in the same region where He let the demons from the demoniac enter into the herd of swine and those animals all swarmed into the sea and died?

Do we take the time to remember that when Jesus was approached by the leper in this chapter that He broke all the years of tradition held by the Pharisees when He did the unthinkable and “touched the leper?” (vs 13)

Do we take the time to remember that Jesus while attending the first Passover during the time of His ministry made a whip out of cords and drove the money changers out of the temple? Do we remember that He didn’t make too many friends that day?

Now here He is in Capernaum teaching.

1. One day He was teaching
   1. Don’t you just love this term?
      1. One day….not an exceptional day….but an ordinary day
   2. He was teaching
      1. Teaching what?
         1. The Good News of the Gospel
         2. That God so loved the world that He gave His only Son
            1. So people could be saved through faith alone
            2. In Christ alone
            3. As their only hope of salvation
2. Hostile crowd
   1. Pharisees and teachers of the law
      1. Broken down into four groups
         1. Pharisees
            1. Hebrew “parash” to separate
            2. Believed in angels, resurrection
         2. Sadducees
            1. Didn’t believe in angels or resurrection or much of anything……liberals of today
         3. Essenes
            1. Hippies of that day….rejecting the norm….lived like monks
         4. Zealots
            1. Political aspects of society
            2. Fought against the Romans
   2. Teachers of the law…..the PHD’s of Judaism…from all over the region
   3. Why are they mentioned?
      1. The loved to be seen by men
      2. Probably sitting in the front row
3. Men carrying another one on a bed or stretcher
   1. Could not get this man in
      1. Why not?
      2. Why did no one move out of the way?
         1. Remember John 9?
            1. Who sinned…this man or his parents?
      3. This man was consider by all in this community as a “sinner.”
      4. He was unclean…stricken by God for his sin
      5. He was a social outcast
   2. The men carrying him would not be deterred
      1. Took apart the roof to get him to Jesus
4. Your sins are forgiven
   1. Scribes and Pharisees discuss theology
      1. They come to a correct conclusion
      2. Who can forgive sins but God alone?
         1. You can sin against me and I can forgive you
         2. Who can forgive you when you sin against God?
            1. There is not a Pope, or Cardinal or Bishop or Priest
            2. Who can forgive your sin against God!!!
   2. Why did Jesus say what He said?
      1. I Sam 16: 7…..”man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart.”
   3. What was the cry of this paralyzed man’s heart?
      1. Forgive me……forgive me
      2. Why was it not…….heal me?
         1. Maybe his condition was a result of his sin?
            1. Maybe he was a drunkard and fell down and broke his neck?
            2. Maybe he had syphilis and the disease ravaged his body?

What is the condition of your heart before God? Is your spiritual need greater than any physical need? Is your heart right before God…….are your forgiven?

1. Friend…. your sins are forgiven you
   1. Greek is in the pluperfect tense
      1. “your sin are and will always be forgiven you.”
2. Mark 2
   1. Carried by four men
      1. Who are they?

They are the same ones carrying sinners to Christ today……

Their names are:

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Will you let them carry you to Christ today?