



THE AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE OUR SINS

...the controversy of forgiveness.

March 17, 2024

Luke 5:17-26

Luke 5-6: Jesus traveled throughout Galilee **preaching and proving** His identity and authority as Israel's prophesied Messiah (Luke 7:19-22). He displayed His authority to both **proclaim and effect** –salvation.

Luke 5:17-26- The healing of a paralyzed man proved Christ's **authority** on earth to **forgive sins**. The external evidence that Jesus had forgiven the man's sins (internal) was that the forgiven man **"rose up"** and walked home glorifying God (external)! What is our evidence of forgiveness?

Today: HFC must believe that **man's greatest need** is the forgiveness of sin through the **authority** of Christ. He is the one who raises us up by His own Word. We must do everything we can do **to bring people into the Presence of Christ's teachings**—by faith!

JEWISH CONTROVERSY: WHO DOES THIS MAN THINK HE IS?

I. CONTROVERSY: THE PLACEMENT OF THE STORY.

Luke 5:17-26 *On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.*

Coram Deo: As we teach the **sound doctrine** of Jesus our Savior, according to His Scriptures, we can expect that His Presence in His Word to provoke a **response**. (Insiders and outsiders are listening.)

II. CONTROVERSY: THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS.

18 And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, 19 but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. 20 And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

Coram Deo: We think we know what our greatest needs are, but often we are only focusing on our **circumstances**. The problems you are facing today is not your spouse, children, or parents. It is not your job, boss, or coworkers. It is not your lack of resources, shortage of time, or insufficient income. Your greatest need is to be **laid helpless** at the feet of Jesus – by faith. What would Jesus give you?

III. CONTROVERSY: THE PROTEST OF THE JEWISH LEADERS.

21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? 23 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?"

Coram Deo: The tangible evidence for our forgiveness is the Resurrection of Christ. By faith, Christ's resurrection is **our being "raised up" to a new life**. (Col 3:1-3) The evidence of a new walk (Eph 2:6; Rom 6, Col 2:6)

IV. CONTROVERSY: THE PROOF OF CHRIST'S AUTHORITY.

24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." 25 And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. 26 And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

Coram Deo: When our sins are forgiven, we "rise and walk." Has your life been laid at the feet of Jesus by faith. Have you heard His command? Has your life **been "raised up" to walk in His forgiveness and glorify God?**

Think:

1. What has Jesus **taught you** in these Scriptures today? What is your **response**?
2. Do you have the faith **to bring hurting people** into the ministry of Christ's Resurrection and His teaching? (sound doctrine)
3. How does a resurrected life **glory God**? Why is your salvation story so extra-ordinary when offered to the world?
4. HFC cannot give "insiders and outsiders" everything they think they need. But we can give them **Jesus in the Scriptures and in our lives**.
5. Who are you bringing to **HFC on Easter(s)**?
6. How does this passage of Scripture **cause you to pray**? Right now?