



Introduction

Jesus healed many people, and quickly became known as a miracle worker. Yet, Jesus was more than just a healer, he was God, and thus had the authority to forgive people's sins. In this passage, Jesus creates a controversy which will ultimately lead to his murderous death because he offers forgiveness for a person's sins.

Observation/Interpretation

- The paralytic believes that his greatest need is healing, yet Jesus first offers forgiveness. By initially ignoring the paralytic's request for healing and instead offering forgiveness, Jesus is in essence setting the priority of what's most important. Why do you think Jesus first "forgave" the man, and then "healed" him?
- In the passage, what are the different responses to Jesus' offering of forgiveness and healing?

Application

Often, we think we know what we need most, and yet often our 'real' needs get neglected or ignored. Our desires are often too shallow, and Jesus wants them to go deeper. What are some areas in your life which you think are of utmost importance, yet in reality compared to your deepest needs are trivial and shallow?

Spend some time praying that God would give you deep desires for things which remain and are eternal. Ask him to properly order the desires of your heart to reflect his.

Memory Verse

(Mark 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven.")

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.