



## First Person Week Five

**Opening Prayer:** God, thank you for the opportunity we have to learn about the power, wisdom, and love of Jesus in this series. Help us to continue to apply these teachings of the synoptic gospels in our daily lives.

**Talk It Over:** This week we took a look at the story found in Luke about the paralytic man seeking healing and his friends that did everything they could to get him to Jesus. This story is told three different times in the bible. As with any story, we can see different perspectives on what was occurring based on the person telling the story.

- Have you experienced a time where you witnessed something exciting or maybe even traumatic and you heard different people talk about it in different ways? Share about that.
- Does different perspectives take away from the truth of the story in your mind?
- If you have heard the story of the paralytic man before share what you remember from it. Then compare that to what you read from the scripture passage below.

### Read Luke 5:17-26 NLT

We will look at and discuss the three different perspectives from this story during our discussion time. We have the perspective of the Pharisees, the paralytic, and the crowd.

#### Perspective #1

##### Pharisees: Proximity doesn't imply relationship

There were many people at the scene of this story. They were there! They were close to Jesus and appeared to be eagerly doing all of the right things but as the story unfolds we can see that they were not really taking any of it in. They were missing the message behind his story!

- Have you ever had a time where you realized you were checking the box of spiritual practices (reading the bible, praying, showing up for church, etc.) but not really connecting with Jesus?
- What happens in your heart and your behavior when you focus not on the rules or laws but on the love of Jesus?
- Has your faith led you to action at some point in your life? Share that story.

#### Perspective #2

##### Paralyzed Man: Jesus was a healer not a physician

Jesus looks beyond our physical conditions and desires in order to bring healing to all parts of our mind, body, and soul. Sometimes this can be frustrating when we are looking for healing from something specific. Jesus is a holistic healer and while of course miracles can still happen healing is often a slow process, a journey, and this journey does not look like we think it should or desire it to be.

- Have you ever prayed for something and didn't get the response from God you expected or desired?
- Have you been confused by what God did or didn't do?
- Do you have a story of holistic healing or healing of a wound that was not physical? That was physical?
- Have you felt God change you from the inside out in small ways? Describe what that feels like to you.

### **Perspective #3**

#### **Crowd: Witnessed the miracle and believed**

In the story we see that some people saw something and tucked it away as that one time event that was so amazing! While it was amazing to them, they did not change because of it. There was no next step for them. Others truly caught a glimpse of Jesus. They were opened to the presence of God before them and an invitation to journey with him. For them, it appears, it was less about the miracle performed that day and more about the experience of God's love shown in Jesus.

- Where are some places you connect with and encounter God?
- Does your connection with God end the second church or your growth group is over?
- What are some ways you can be intentional about seeing Jesus at work in every day life?

**Practice:** This week intentionally make some space and ask Jesus to cover you in his presence and love. For this week, focus less on the specific needs and more on just seeing Jesus as you rest in his presence. As you practice, allow that presence and connection with Jesus to move your faith into action propelling you to your next step.

**Closing Prayer:** God we lift up all parts of us to you. We seek your holistic healing and your will for us. Help us to be authentic and be present to your love as we put our faith into action.

**Challenge:** We would like to invite you to follow along with us as a church as we read through the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. You can do that through the eDevotional. <http://eastlakechurch.com/next-steps/edevotional/> If you have already started this reading, share some thoughts or insight about your experience this week.