

Luke 5: Jesus and Forgiveness

- ✚ **Luke 5:17-20**, We are introduced for the first time in Luke to God's plan for sinners, that sinners can be forgiven. Beyond all argument, the greatest preacher who ever lived was Jesus Christ, and the greatest message ever preached was the message of forgiveness. Forgiveness is man's greatest need and God's greatest gift.
 - ✚ Luke has been building a case for the primary message of the New Testament; that God is willing and able to forgive a sinner of His sins so that they don't go to Hell and pay for them themselves. That is the good news that's coming from all of this.
 - ✚ The entire Bible is just the story of God forgiving sinners, **Acts 10:38; Ephesians 1:7**. It is a complete and utter forgiveness, **Micah 18:7**. So, the heart of this passage is the heart of the gospel, forgiveness; the heart of forgiveness is what motivates God to forgive, love. **John 3:16**.
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1. No one can ultimately forgive sins but God Himself.

- ✓ All sins are ultimately against God, **Psalms 51:4**.
 - ✓ **John 20:23**, This isn't forgiveness power but agreement power; we can agree and affirm someone's forgiveness by God because we have His word on it.
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2. The Pharisees were right, sort of.

- ✓ Pharisees were religious men, non-priests; their name means "separated;" devoted fanatically to the law and Jewish tradition; only about 6,000 in number in Jesus' day. The Scribes were sort of the upper echelon of the Pharisees, educated legal experts; they were scholars among the scholars.
 - ✓ With all their learning, they missed the major point that all are sinners in need of forgiveness by God. They were wrong on the biggest issue which is mankind's biggest need and God's biggest gift. All their wrongness notwithstanding, they were right about one thing concerning forgiveness: Only God can forgive.
 - ✓ Also, they were right in the estimation of this situation: for Jesus to say "your sins are forgiven" that either one, He is God or, two, He is a blasphemer of God.
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3. Jesus is God, full of forgiveness.

- ✓ So, they believe so completely and are so determined that they go up on a roof, which would have been like a balcony with stairs going up (without yards, they often would entertain on their roofs).
- ✓ They had faith and the man had faith; no one is forgiven apart from faith; you have to believe Jesus is who He is and that He is willing to forgive.

Jesus deals with his greatest problem; it's our greatest problem as well.
