

What Is Easier to Say?

- Lk 5:17-26
- Demonstration of faith by friends and perhaps the paralytic
 - People from all over coming out to see Jesus—how far had these men traveled?
 - Whose idea was it to seek out Jesus?
 - Determined to get in front of Jesus, no matter the obstacles
 - Perhaps an indication of the man's health – on his deathbed?
 - Packed house – went up to the roof and removed tiles (!)
 - Must have had rope/straps to let him down, showing preparation
 - Lk. 5:20 – Jesus **saw their faith** in action
 - Could be seen – Jm. 2:18
 - Believed they had to get him in front of Jesus
 - Paralytic believed it would work and that he wouldn't be injured in process
- Jesus forgave sins – Lk. 5:20
 - Even apostles did not claim power to forgive sin – Ax. 8:22
 - Jesus forgave sins only on 2 other recorded times (both in private) – Lk. 7:48 (sinful woman); 23:43 (thief on cross)
 - Purpose here – to show He could forgive sin
 - Claiming to do something only God could do was blasphemy
- Jesus perceived the thoughts of Pharisees – Lk. 5:22
 - Prophesied – Is. 11:1-3; Ps. 139:2
 - Jn. 2:24-25
 - Evidence of deity, power from God – 1 Chr. 28:9; Jer. 17:10
- 3rd miracle (healing) to prove He was from God and had power to forgive – 5:24
 - Popular belief then that disease was result of sin – Jn. 9:1-3; Lk. 13:1-5
 - Regardless of how man became paralyzed, Jesus addressed both physical and spiritual needs
- Application
 - What would you do to get cure for some disease or disability? Whatever distance, cost, etc.?
 - To what lengths will you go to help save a friend?
 - Are we helping others find Jesus, or are we standing in the way, preventing them from getting to Him?
 - Jesus is great physician, Mt. 9:12
 - What's easier for us to say – ask Jesus for help, or deny Him...