

The Story Church - 1.22.23

A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 3: *Son of God, Son of Man*

Part Two: *Jesus and Forgiveness*

SERIES INTRO: He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

REFLECTION QUESTION: What would you say is the most important and urgent need in our world today? What do you think Jesus would say?

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. 20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

Luke 5:17-20

In verse 20, Jesus saw their faith. Why is that significant? What did the friend's faith have to do with their friend's sins? How can your faith affect your family, friends, and sphere of influence by bringing them closer to Jesus?

In light of this passage and according to Jesus' words, what is the man's most urgent need in his life? Why would this be shocking to the man, his friends, and the crowd?

21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

Luke 5:21-26

Which is easier: to fix something or forgive someone? Why?

What are 5 things forgiveness is not?

1. Forgiveness is not _____
2. Forgiveness is not _____
3. Forgiveness is not _____
4. Forgiveness is not _____
5. Forgiveness is not _____

What is forgiveness?

Why is forgiveness so important in order to understand the gospel of Jesus?

PRAYER: How are you struggling with forgiveness today? Ask God for the strength to receive forgiveness from Him and to forgive yourself and others.

** Find the full January Reading Plan at thestory.church/resources*

