

Chris Murphy

July 27, 2025

Luke 5: 17-26

Sermon Title: Healing and Friendship

Prayer...

Introduction:

Lately I have met with some folks who attend our church and who are exploring membership. It is always a good opportunity for me to learn about how people experience our church. It is also a chance for me to share my sense of where our church is going in terms of our identity and mission. Here are some of our church values that represent who we are and where we are going in terms of our mission.

Christ centered and Spirit filled (Deeper experience of the Holy Spirit)- Gratitude in worship.

Trinitarian- God as Creator/Father/Mother, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Grace, Hope, Peace, and Love (Special focus on peace and love)

Modern and Traditional Worship

Spirituality and Prayer (Retreats- Newberg Center for Christian

Spirituality, Prayers of the People)

Christian Community

Non-partisan

Social justice

**Heart for the vulnerable: refugees, immigrants, LGBTQ plus,
houseless, those in prison, and all ethnicities. Racial justice.**

Presbyterian (PCUSA), Ecumenical, and Inter faith friendly

Care of Creation- Newberg Peace Garden

After listing all of these characteristics and values of our church, I am also conscious that one area related to spirituality that I am hoping we might explore more as a congregation is our relationship to healing ministry and the power of the Holy Spirit.

This summer we are exploring Holy Spirit Healing Stories because I am praying for the Holy Spirit to fill this church with her presence and power.

I am praying for God to do miracles in our church.

In our Scripture story today, we see the power of friendship, the power of Jesus to forgive, and the power of Jesus to heal the sick.

(Summarize the Story)

Friendship: Highlight the friends who lower him down from the roof.

At our church I see the power of friendship as we pray for each other and care for each other. It is organic.

Forgiveness: In our story the man needs forgiveness. We do not know why and there is no indication in this story that the man's physical limitation is connected to sin, but it is beautiful that Jesus offers the man forgiveness. For many of us, grace and forgiveness our part of our healing journey. Where do we each need forgiveness and who are we invited to forgive.

Healing: This story is incredible powerful because Jesus heals the man and he gets up and walks. I want to tell you a healing story from my own life. (Story of Nick Lemonds praying for me and how I walked out my healing. Story of Karen's story (30 years suffering with pain in right shoulder and right lower back from a car accident. Desiree's friend prayed for her.)

So how might we grow our healing ministry at this church?

- Embrace the teaching that healing ministry is for today and it is part of the calling of followers of Jesus. We all through the power of the Holy Spirit are called to heal the sick. Some may develop this gift more than others, but all our invited into healing ministry.
- Be open to the Holy Spirit and follow her guidance in this area of healing ministry.
- Remember the power of grace, faith, and grace. (Faith Experiment)

- Do the stuff. (John Wimber). Let's just do it.

“He tells us to preach the gospel of the kingdom, to heal the sick, to cleanse the lepers, and to drive out demons (Matthew 10:7-8). He expects us to care for the poor and emotionally broken (Luke 4:18-19).” John Wimber, *Witnesses for a Powerful Christ* (Anaheim: Vineyard Ministries International, 1996), 19.

- Create Space for an openness to the Healing of Jesus. (Healing Prayer Services)

I want to encourage us that healing ministry is for today and it is a fulfillment of our friendship with one another and with our community. Ask this question? Do you think Jesus wishes his healing ministry to be more active in churches and in the work of God in the wider world? If the answer is yes, then let us find a way to be faithful to the ministry of healing.

With that in mind, I want to invite you to ask for healing from Jesus for yourself or for someone else. Let's hold some silence together and wait on the Holy Spirit.

Pray...

Luke 5:17-26

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

17 One day while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem were sitting nearby, and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.[a] 18 Just then some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus,[b] 19 but, finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle of the crowd[c] in front of Jesus. 20 When he saw their faith, he said, “Friend,[d] your sins are forgiven you.” 21 Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, “Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 22 When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say,

‘Stand up and walk’? 24 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the one who was paralyzed—“I say to you, stand up and take your stretcher and go to your home.” 25 Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. 26 Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen incredible things today.”