

Vision 2027 Overview
“Living a Life that Outlasts Me, A Right Perspective”
Luke 5:16-27
February 5, 2023

Quick observation before we jump in - The Pharisees and teachers of the law apparently needed healing as well (v. 17, be it physical or spiritual)

So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed (v.16)

Prayer does not prepare us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work. – **Oswald Chambers**

You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. - **S.D. Gordon**

I have so much to do that I shall spend the first 3 hours in prayer. - **Martin Luther**

If it was utmost and first importance for Jesus to spend time with the Father, how much more would we need to do the same? Prayer is simply communing with God, speak and listening.

We should expect nothing until we pray!

May we keep the right perspective:

Christ redeemed me; we ask that He redeems others.

Magnify – we will be a rejoicing people (rejoicing as people come to life in Christ).

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. **2 Peter 3:9**

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹ who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. **1 Peter 1:17-21**

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

The four friends wanted the paralytic to experience wellness too.

They knew what Jesus could do, they clearly had heard that Jesus could heal.

Because of their faith (v. 20) his friends would not be stopped. They pushed thru adversity, they didn't get discouraged. The crowd was there for a show, the man and four friends were there for a touch, healing.

“This man is said to be full of leprosy; he had that distemper in a high degree, which represents our natural pollution by sin; we are full of that leprosy; from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot there is no soundness in us. Strong confidence and deep humility are united in the words of this leper. And if any sinner, from a deep sense of vileness, says, I know the Lord can cleanse, but will he look upon such a one as me? Will he apply his own precious blood for my cleansing and healing? Yes, he will. Speak not as doubting, but as humbly referring the matter to Christ. And being saved from the guilt and power of our sins, let us spread abroad Christ's fame, and bring others to hear him and to be healed.”¹

“The scribes and Pharisees picked a good time to attend one of our Lord's meetings, because God's power was present in a special way and Jesus would heal a man with palsy. If leprosy illustrates the corruption and defilement of sin, then palsy is a picture of the paralysis that sin produces in a life. But Jesus would do more than heal the man; He would also forgive his sins and teach the crowd a lesson in forgiveness.” - **Warren Wiersbe**

¹ Henry, M., & Scott, T. (1997). [*Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary*](#) (Lk 5:12). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems.

5:20 Luke tells us that Jesus saw **their faith**. How do you see faith? You see it by what it produces. Jesus saw their actions on behalf of their friend. But he also saw what no one else could. They saw a paralyzed man who needed healing. Jesus saw a sinner who needed forgiveness. The men had brought their friend for physical restoration. Jesus knew he needed spiritual restoration. So he said to him, **Friend, your sins are forgiven**. Forgiveness came first. Getting right with God takes priority over getting your circumstances right. This incident also shows the importance of having fellow believers in your life on whose faith you can piggyback in times of your own spiritual and physical weakness.

- Tony Evans

Time is short, death is sure, eternity awaits.

Meet – meet people where they are, building relationships that lead to Gospel transformation. (vs. 17-19)

Just think of the testimony that the paralyzed man had, how impacting!

My obedience matters – we need to think how it will matter for future generations. We don't know the "rest of the story" for the healed man, we can only imagine though that his account was shared again and again.

We need to meet people where they are, thinking of those who are not here yet.

Now and in the future – build for the future.

Start where are, use what you got, do what you can.

You and I are important members of the Body of Christ.

Mature – vs. 22-24

Our sins have been forgiven which propels us to love and serve the Lord.

The man's friends were serving him.

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

Last week and 1 Corinthians 12

The church is a refuge for the lost, not a couch for the lazy.

When we see or experience God's work in our life, it moves us.

Move (vs. 25-26)

I want to live a life that will outlive me, a life that will be used by the Lord.

Grow those that are here to get ready for those that are not.

Be faithful in the little.

Prayer Focus:

Be intentional in prayer.

Have I been redeemed (forgiven), do I desire that for others?

My time is short, how am I making the most?

How am I serving others?

Most importantly, how has God worked (and is working) in my life so that it moves me?