

Luke 5:17-21

¹⁷ One day He was teaching; and there were *some* Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting *there*, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and *from* Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was *present* for Him to perform healing. ¹⁸ And *some* men *were* carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. ¹⁹ But not finding any *way* to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle *of the crowd*, in front of Jesus. ²⁰ Seeing their faith, He said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven you.” ²¹ The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this *man* who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?”

1. The teachings of Jesus had attracted a lot of attention from religious leaders.

- a. Pharisees and teachers of the law:
 - i. From every village of Galilee, Judea and even Jerusalem.
- b. This event represents more of a pastors conference than a normal teaching time.
 - i. These men had come to investigate Jesus and his legitimacy.

2. The power of healing was present with Christ.

- a. Even though this was a time primarily for teaching, Jesus knew in the Spirit that there would be a healing.
 - i. Jesus is described as being a recipient, not a dictator of this healing power.
 - 1. This reflects the continual theme of humility before the Father’s will.

3. The arrival of the paralytic prompts a discussion about forgiveness.

- a. The friends of the paralytic go to extraordinary lengths to get their friend to Jesus.
- b. Jesus sees their faith and then declares the sins of the man forgiven.
- c. The scribes and Pharisees begin to debate amongst themselves.
 - i. They declare the idea that Jesus could forgive sin to be blasphemous.
 - 1. In the Greek, this word literally means to speak evil of God.
 - ii. They ask a question to prove their point.
 - 1. “Who can forgive sins, but God alone?”

4. By what basis could Jesus forgive this man’s sin?

- a. Jesus had not yet paid the propitiation in his blood.
 - i. Propitiation: a gift or payment to appease wrath.
- b. This man is in the same boat as all men and women of the Old Testament.

5. On what basis did God extend forgiveness and salvation to the people in the Old Testament?

- a. Paul explains this in the book of Romans:
 - i. Romans 3:21-23**
 - ii. Paul would say:
 - 1. The Righteousness of God doesn’t come from fulfilling the Law.
 - 2. The fact that the Righteousness of God doesn’t come from the Law is witnessed by the Old Testament.
 - 3. The Old Testament even goes as far as to say that the Righteousness of God comes from faith in Jesus Christ.

- b. Charles C. Ryrie:
 - i. “The BASIS of salvation in every age is the death of Christ; the REQUIREMENT for salvation in every age is faith; the OBJECT of faith in every age is God; the CONTENT of faith changes in the various dispensations.”
- c. The Basis of salvation → The Death of Christ.
 - i. **Genesis 3:15**
 - ii. **Isaiah 53:4-5, 8, 10, 12**
- d. The Requirement of salvation → Faith
 - i. Old Testament saints were justified by Faith.
 - ii. **Habakkuk 2:4**
 - iii. Hebrews 11 lists several examples:
 - 1. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel...
 - iv. Abraham: Paul’s Prime Example:
 - 1. **Romans 4:1-5**
- e. The Object of Faith → God.
 - i. **Romans 3:22** → Faith in Jesus Christ
 - ii. How could the regenerate have faith in Jesus Christ in the OT?
 - iii. Paul uses Abraham as his example:
 - 1. “Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.” (**Gen 15:6**)
 - 2. The regenerate people of the Old Testament were saved when they had faith in God, His Word, and His promise of a coming Messiah.
- f. The Content of Faith → dependant on the revelation of God.
 - i. God did not reveal his will all at once. He revealed it bit by bit over time.
 - ii. Compare the knowledge of:
 - 1. Adam to Abraham, Abraham to Moses, Moses to David, David to Isaiah.
 - iii. These men were judged based on the faith they had in God and in the truth that they had received from God.

6. Conclusion:

- a. God extended forgiveness and salvation to the people in the Old Testament the exact same way he extends forgiveness and salvation now.
- b. Salvation:
 - i. Is possible because of Christ’s propitiating sacrifice on the cross.
 - ii. Requires our Faith in God: His Work (the Cross) and His Word (Scripture)
- c. The amount of understanding you have about God’s Work and Word is based upon when in human history you lived.

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