



# Daily Reflections

**December 11, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Luke 5: 17-26**

One day as Jesus was teaching,  
Pharisees and teachers of the law,  
who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem,  
were sitting there,

and the power of the Lord was with him for healing.

And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed;  
they were trying to bring him in and set him in his presence.

But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd,  
they went up on the roof

and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles  
into the middle in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said,  
"As for you, your sins are forgiven."

Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves,  
"Who is this who speaks blasphemies?

Who but God alone can forgive sins?"

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply,

"What are you thinking in your hearts?

Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,'

or to say, 'Rise and walk'?

But 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, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home."  
He stood up immediately before them,  
picked up what he had been lying on,  
and went home, glorifying God.  
Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God,  
and, struck with awe, they said,  
"We have seen incredible things today."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

"We have seen incredible things today." I love that response to Jesus' healing and forgiving of the once paralyzed man. But is that type of statement confined to the far distant past? I think not! The power of Jesus is manifest in our world today, but do we see it? When?

-when former enemies reconcile

-when someone who never thought they could help the poor spends their first day at a soup kitchen

-when someone takes the time to visit a paralyzed person in a nursing home

-when we drop an anonymous thank you note to an over worked fireman or police officer

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## **Food for your Journey**

Will Willimon, in a chapel address called "Sin as a byproduct of worship," tells the story of a friend of his who, while in seminary, served briefly as a chaplain in a state prison. He received a request from a father of a young man who was interned in the prison. The young man had committed a robbery in a little town and had been sentenced to many years in jail. He was angry, embittered.

The boy's father came each week to visit him, but the lad steadfastly refused to see him.

The chaplain was asked to intervene, to plead with the boy to see his father. But the young prisoner refused to reconsider.

Despite his refusal, the boy's father took off work every week, boarded a bus, and traveled across the state in the hope of seeing his son.

Every week. And every week it became the young chaplain's difficult task to ask the son, "Do you want to see your dad?" He then had to bear word of the refusal to the waiting father.

The father would thank the chaplain, gather his belongings, and head toward the door for the bus trip back home.

One day, after telling the father the same thing, that his son would not meet with him, the chaplain said, "No one would do what you are doing. Your son is an embittered, defiant young man. Go back home and get on with your life. No one would put up with this kind of rejection, week after week. Nobody would do this."

"He has put up with it for centuries," said the father, as he picked up his meager belongings and headed out.

And the young chaplain literally fell to his knees at this vision of the righteousness of God.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Help me to reveal Your unconditional love by doing something kind and compassionate for someone who could use it this day. Amen.