

WEEK 8:

# OUR DEEPEST NEED

## PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 5:17-26

## RELATED SCRIPTURE:

Lamentations 3:19-27, Psalm 51:1-5,  
Matthew 13:44-45, Proverbs 18:24, Proverbs 27:6

“Whatever else is or is not true, this one thing is certain—man is not what he was meant to be.”

– G.K. Chesterton

“Beneath the great accomplishments of our time there is a deep current of despair. While efficiency and control are the great aspirations of our society, the loneliness, isolation, lack of friendship and intimacy, broken relationships, boredom, feelings of emptiness and depression, and a deep sense of uselessness fill the hearts of millions of people in our success-oriented world.”

– Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*

## PERSONAL STUDY:

**Read Luke 5:17-19.** Try to picture yourself in the midst of this interaction. We aren't given a lot of detail about the paralyzed man, but what do you think his life is like? What are his pains and frustrations? What are his hopes and dreams?

**Read Luke 5:18-19.** Look at the actions of the paralyzed man's friends. What insight can we gain about the nature of true friendship from them? How can you apply these insights to your friendships with people?

**Read Luke 5:20 and Psalm 51:1-5.** What is the significance of Jesus claiming the right to forgive sins? What is significant about Jesus ignoring the man's need of physical healing to deal with his sins first?

**Read Luke 5:17-21.** Describe the Pharisees actions and/or inaction throughout this story. What do we learn about them from their behavior?

**Read Luke 5:22-26.** According to v. 24, what is Jesus' goal in healing the man's paralysis? What did He desire most for the paralyzed man? What did He desire most for the Pharisees and the teachers of the law?

## SERMON NOTES:



## LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Have you ever had an affliction, struggle or desire that you believed “If God gave me \_\_\_\_\_ or changed \_\_\_\_\_, then life would be ok”?



**Read Luke 17-20.** Why does Jesus first focus on the paralyzed man’s sin issue instead of his physical need? Why do we often focus on our physical needs over and above our spiritual needs and sin issues?

**Read Luke 5:21.** The Pharisees are correct that God alone can forgive sin. In what ways do you struggle with the idea of Jesus claiming outright to be God?

Why do you think the Pharisees are fundamentally concerned with the theology of Jesus’ statement, but not concerned at all with loving the paralyzed man?



**Read Matthew 13:44.** If God offered you two options:

- 1) Anything in your life that you want and perceive as a need or
- 2) Forgiveness for your sins...

Which would you pick? Why? What is the real trade-off in this situation?

How does the gospel set us free to love, sacrifice for, and work to help our friends? In your friendships, do you tend to care about sin issues and spiritual needs or do you focus more on other things?

