Jesus: Who does He think He is?

Luke 5:17-26

Stories about people making false claims in their resumes are in the news. However fantastic their claims, they are nothing compared to the claims Jesus makes about himself.

Not everyone's happy about Jesus

We meet the Pharisees for the first time in this passage. They had a huge influence on the people. Their aim was to keep the people faithful to the Law of Moses. In doing so they invented numerous other rules and laws. With Jesus becoming popular they came to investigate him for themselves.

The tragedy of the Pharisees is that they were in the same room as the Son of God and missed it. You can make religion your life and still miss Jesus.

Getting through the crowd

The friends who bring the paralyzed man aren't put off by the obstacles they encounter. They get their friend to Jesus. And Jesus sees their faith. We may have friends or family members, and we know they need Jesus, but there seem so many obstacles in the way. Don't give up. Keep bringing them to Jesus in prayer. You've got to leave Jesus to do the rest, but be patient and persistent in prayer. Jesus sees that kind of faith. And seeing their faith, Jesus tells the man his sins are forgiven.

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The Pharisees are right: only God can forgive sins. But the Pharisees are about to discover that you can be both right and wrong at the same time! It's easy to say 'your sins are forgiven.' But Jesus is going to prove he can do more than just say it – by doing the harder thing of healing the man. As he says that, he calls himself the Son of Man: he identifies himself with the divine-human figure of Daniel 7:13-14 – the one who has authority to rule. So, if only God can forgive sins, and here is Jesus claiming and proving He has the authority to forgive sins, then who, on earth, is Jesus?

Your problem is not your problem

For this guy, and his friends, his paralysis was his major problem. But that wasn't Jesus' priority. His priority was to heal the man's heart. So often the physical problems are what dominate our lives, and they can drown out the issues of our heart. But Jesus deals with the man's heart first. It's what he came to do: to finally deal with our sin at the cross, so that we might know the forgiveness of sin this paralyzed man knew.

The Joy of Forgiveness

The paralyzed man goes home rejoicing. It's the joy of sins forgiven. There is joy and freedom in knowing that Jesus has dealt with your sin.