

“Lord, if you are willing”

Luke 5:12-26

“Lord, if you are willing”

Luke 5:12-13

12 While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” **13** Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.

“Lord, if you are willing”

“touched the man”

**“An act that, according to
Mosaic law, brought
defilement. Jesus’ compassion
for the man superseded
ceremonial considerations.”**

NIV 1984 Study Bible

“Lord, if you are willing”

Luke 5:14-16

14 Then Jesus ordered him, “Don’t tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” **15** Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. **16** But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

“Lord, if you are willing”

“By this command Jesus urged the man to keep the law, to provide further proof for the actual healing, to testify to the authorities concerning His ministry and to supply ritual certification of cleansing so the man could be reinstated to society... The healing was also a testimony to Jesus’ divine power, since Jews believed that only God could cure leprosy.”

NIV 1984 Study Bible

“Lord, if you are willing”

Matthew 5:17-18

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

“Lord, if you are willing”

Luke 5:17-20

17 One day Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.

18 Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.

“Lord, if you are willing”

“They [the Pharisees] were teachers in the synagogues, religious examples in the eyes of the people and self-appointed guardians of the Law and its proper observance. They considered the interpretations and regulations handed down by tradition to be virtually as authoritative as Scripture.”

“Lord, if you are willing”

**[The teachers of the law were]
“Scribes” who studied, interpreted,
and taught the law (both written
and oral). The majority of these
teachers belonged to the party of
the Pharisees.”**

NIV 1984 Study Bible

19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. **20** When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

“Lord, if you are willing”

Mark 2:3-4

3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. **4** Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.

“Lord, if you are willing”

Psalm 103:1-3

1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. **2** Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits— **3** who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

“Lord, if you are willing”

“This miracle, performed by the Lord’s power (5:17), is divine proof that Jesus indeed has power to forgive sins. The implication of this ability to forgive sins is raised by the question, “Who can forgive sins but God?” which Luke intensified by adding the term “alone.”

If no human being can forgive sins, if God alone can forgive sins, and if Jesus is able to forgive sins, what does this imply?”

“Lord, if you are willing”

“Christ ignored the paralysis [in v.20] and addressed the man’s greater need first. In doing so, He asserted a prerogative that was God’s alone. His subsequent healing of the man’s paralysis was proof that He had the authority to forgive sins as well.

MacArthur NIV 2011 Study Bible

“Lord, if you are willing”

Luke 5:21-26

21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” **22** Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? **23** Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?”

“Lord, if you are willing”

“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees reject Jesus’ claim to be acting with God’s authority and so consider His statement to be blasphemous.”

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible
Background Commentary**

“Lord, if you are willing”

“In Jewish law, conviction of blasphemy, which was a capital crime penalized by stoning, had to be based on unmistakable and overt defilement of the divine name.

Luke shows that Jesus, with His divine insight, probed the unvoiced thoughts of the Pharisees and teachers of the law, who were convinced that He had arrogated to Himself the divine prerogative.”

The Expositors Bible Commentary

“Lord, if you are willing”

“Luke by his addition of “alone” indicates that Jesus’ actions put him on a par with God! Luke believed that God alone can forgive sins just as the scribes and Pharisees did. But Luke also believed that Jesus can forgive sins. The Christological implications are not stated but are clear.”

Robert Stein

“Lord, if you are willing”

“It is easier to say, “Your sins are forgiven” than, “Get up and walk” because the legitimacy of the former cannot be disproven whereas the latter can if no healing takes place.

However, since God alone can forgive sins and since numerous people, both in and out of the Bible, have performed healings, the former is more difficult to do. Luke understood that if God granted Jesus power to work this miracle, then God himself supported Jesus' claim that he can forgive sins."

24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” **25** Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. **26** Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

“Lord, if you are willing”

Daniel 7:13-14

13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

“Lord, if you are willing”

“This passage is also a lesson in faith and the various human responses to Jesus’ power and identity. On the negative side the religious leaders see God’s power but reject the messenger. On the positive side the paralytic and his friends demonstrate extraordinary faith by tearing the roof apart to reach Jesus.”

“Lord, if you are willing”

“The paralytic is rewarded with both spiritual and physical healing: forgiveness of sins and the ability to walk. The miracle has its intended result. The people stand in awe and give praise to God.”

Applications

- **Jesus is God**
- **Reach out to the outcasts of the world**
- **Your sins are forgiven**

Final Thoughts

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD.

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Final Thoughts

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has gone, the new has come! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.

And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.