



## KINGDOM LIVING

### Fierce Forgiveness

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Luke 5:17-26

The kingdom of the heavens is built on the forgiveness of God and today we will consider what that forgiveness is like and how it might fuel this church to become a place full to overflowing of God's extraordinary works.

1

Let us take up the passage in **Luke 5:17**,

On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.

No matter if the vultures of this world are circling your life waiting for you to slip up or fail, if the power of the Lord with in you, then fear not. Has not God said in **2 Timothy 1:7**,

2

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control

3

Now let us read on **Luke 5:18-19**

And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, <sup>19</sup>but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.

Tell me, what would you do to get yourself to the midst of Jesus? Are you looking for any way to get to the Saviour, or are you just standing behind the excuse of circumstance? **What kind of faith do you have?** Whatever you are DOING, that is the kind of faith you have.

4

And now the power of God is unleashed in this paralyzed man's life. **Luke 5:20**,

5

And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

6

**God's forgiveness will ALWAYS come and meet with faith** – always! God's forgiveness does not ever ask for your approval or permission. It is fierce!

When we think of a fierce storm we think of a storm that is coming right through our town, whatever is in its path will not remain unchanged.

And that is the God of the Bible. That is the Jesus of the gospels. That is the Spirit of the church. Listen to Paul quoting what God said to Moses in

7

**Romans 9:15,**

For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

This is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob saying, “If I say I am going to have mercy, then I am going to have mercy”.

8

And if we’re honest, we struggle with this. Because some people go too far and they just don’t deserve it. **The problem here is not what we see of God but rather what we have chosen not to see of God.**

Let us take a short side-step to another time when Jesus addressed this in

9

**Matthew 18:21-22,**

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times

Peter wanted a type of forgiveness that also allowed him to judge. Our desire for both forgiveness AND justice is right. Our problem is we cannot do both.

10

See in **Ephesians 4:32,**

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Peter wanted to do enough to appear to be as kind as Jesus but reserve the right to judge so they didn’t get away with something. We have forgotten what

11

God says in **Romans 5:8,**

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

On the cross, God’s justice was fully satisfied. Ironically Peter needed a Saviour who would forgive again, and again, and again, and again. But he only wanted to walk in some of those footsteps. Is that you?

When you choose not to forgive, you choose to turn away from the cross.

12 We must first see ourselves every day through the cross of Christ. As Paul says in **Romans 7:18**,

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out

13 I want to see justice – I want them to pay for what they have done – but I cannot deliver it. Jesus has already paid the price. Justice has already been done. **Our desire for the forgiveness of others is satisfied when we choose to see the power of the cross for others.**

14 Back in Luke 5, the Pharisees were offended by Jesus forgiving sin. So Jesus asks them in **Luke 5:23**,

Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’?

15 Now Jesus reveals the whole point of this moment in **verses 24-25**,

But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” <sup>25</sup>And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.

16 Jesus looked at the paralyzed man through the cross; He looked at the Pharisees through the cross. He looks at you through the cross. **Verse 26**,

And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”

17 What caused their amazement and being filled with awe? Seeing a God who can, and will forgive ANYONE, of ANYTHING, at ANYTIME. **The fierce forgiveness of God moved and no one was left unchanged, not even the house.**

We want to see extraordinary things, and you will, if you look at everyone through the cross of Jesus. That spirit of self-control we read in 2 Timothy 1:7, that means you can choose to look at anyone through the cross of Jesus.

18 Live every moment with this in your heart.

1. I live forgiven because Jesus died for me.
2. They can live forgiven because Jesus died for them too.