

Dwelling in the Word—Saturday March 2, 2024

Luke 5:17-26 (NIV)

¹⁷ One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. ¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 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.”

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’? ²⁴ But I want you to 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.”**

1. What surprises or stands out to you in this passage?
2. What is the context and the challenge and how was the challenge handled?

What strikes you about verse 20?

3. Is there a “blocked door” requiring prayerful observation and reflection, which might allow for the Holy Spirit’s to spark imagination, new innovative approaches, perspectives, experiments for your church?
4. What are some new possibilities, experiments the Spirit might be inviting you to in order to help your church stop from being “paralyzed” and move forward in faith?

Close with each sharing 1 prayer request and pray for one another.

*Link to Rev. Shannon Kiser video workshop with Fresh Expressions where she draws on this passage:
<https://youtu.be/07QK9xHO0Ig>