

CrossWalk **notes**

Investigating Jesus

Jesus Heals and Forgives and Calls Levi

February 18, 2024 / Dan Solofra

How does Jesus help me identify and fill my greatest need?

If God gave me _____ I would be happy and content for the rest of my life.

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." **Luke 5:17-20, NIV**

When considering our greatest need, Jesus takes us deeper.

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?" **Luke 5:21, NIV**

The Pharisees were right. You can't forgive a debt that you aren't willing and able to pay.

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." **Luke 5:22-26, NIV**

Jesus has the authority to forgive sin.

He filled this man's greatest need.

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. **Luke 5:27-28, NIV**

Levi thought his greatest need was money.

²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

³¹ Jesus answered them, **"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."**
Luke 5:29-32, NIV

If I can't admit I am spiritually sick. I will not value the healing Jesus brings.

²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever. **Psalms 73:24-26, NIV**

MEMORY VERSE

³¹ Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." **Luke 5:31-32, NIV**

My next step:

I am spiritually sick and in need of healing. Jesus fill my greatest need by restoring my relationship with God and inviting to follow him.

What's your next step?

Mark it on your connection card.

Group Questions

What are some things you have prayed for in the past that you thought would bring lasting happiness that have failed to deliver?

Do you have 4 friends who would dig through the roof to get you to Jesus? How has your group or ministry team been a place where you can develop those kinds of friendships?

How does understanding that I am sick and in need of healing make me appreciate Jesus even more?

How does understanding Jesus came to call sinners to repentance make me more patient with others?