

Jesus is the Best! Luke 5:17-39

(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. (18) 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, (19) 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. (20) And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." (21) And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (22) When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? (23) Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? (24) 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." (25) And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. (26) And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

1. Who are you teaching God's Word to? Who are you teaching the gospel to? Who are you teaching about Jesus?
2. Let's pray for God to bring people from all over Etowah County to hear His Word, the teaching of Jesus.
3. You and I need the power of Jesus every day. We need His power for every area of our lives.
4. Who are you seeking to bring to Jesus? Only He can forgive sins. Only He can bring eternal healing. How are you exercising your faith? Is your faith in Jesus visible and evident to those around you? Who are you loving so much that you are willing to take the roof off for?
5. Jesus is God, this is why He could not only heal, but also forgive people's sins. Do you believe Jesus is God? Have you trusted in Jesus to forgive you of your sins?
6. Jesus knows our every thought, He knows the depths of our hearts.
7. Jesus is the Son of Man. "Son of Man" is a Messianic title (Dan. 7) demonstrating that He is the Christ, Messiah, Anointed One that was promised in the Old Testament. He is 100% man and 100% God.
8. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. Have you surrendered and submitted to His authority?
9. God deserves all glory, honor and praise. Jesus is amazing and truly awesome in the truest sense of that word. Jesus alone can do extraordinary, supernatural, miraculous things in and through your life. Let's keep looking to Him for everything.

Bottom Line: Jesus is the only way for our sins to be forgiven, His perfect life, death in our place, and resurrection made the way.

(27) After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." (28) And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. (29) And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. (30) And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" (31) And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. (32) I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

1. Being a Christian is really about following Jesus as His disciple (learner, student, pupil). To follow Jesus He must have first place in our hearts and lives. Are you a follower of Jesus? Are you His disciple? Does He have first place in your life and heart?
2. When we become followers of Jesus we want everyone else we know to follow Him as well. We will introduce as many people as possible to Jesus without shame. We will use our work, home, every relationship, and every area of our lives. We will celebrate Jesus and want Him to be a part of all we do. Jesus becomes our greatest joy. Is Jesus your greatest joy? Have you tried to introduce all those you know to Him? Are you using every area of your life for His glory and praise?
3. Jesus love sinners. God wants us to recognize our sins and come to Him for forgiveness. Jesus calls sinners like us to repentance, to turn away from our sins and to Him. Do you know Jesus' great love personally? Have you turned from your sins in true repentance?
4. It is the sick who need a physician. Jesus is the great physician and He will heal those who come to Him broken and willing to turn and be healed. Only the prideful, arrogant, and self-righteous would grumble, complain, and be angry about Jesus' love for people. Do you recognize your sin sickness?

Bottom Line: Being a Christian is really all about turning from all else and following Jesus as His disciple, and introducing Him to others.

(33) And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink." (34) And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? (35) The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." (36) He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. (37) And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. (38) But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. (39) And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"

1. Jesus is the bridegroom and we as His church are the bride. He brings joy and celebration into our hearts and lives. Have you found great joy and celebration in Jesus?
2. In Jesus all things are new. Jesus ushered in the New Covenant that is better than the Old Covenant, and He fulfilled the Old Covenant. Jesus is not an addition to Judaism, He is the fulfillment and the One that all the Old Testament points to and is fulfilled in. Through the New Covenant Experience of the Holy Spirit we receive God's joy and power. Jesus can't be added to another religion, but is infinitely superior to all religions: Judaism (especially rabbinic), Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Naturalism, Secularism, all cults, etc. Have you entered into the fullness of the New Covenant, the fullness of Jesus, the kingdom of God?
3. It is hard for people to leave religion and tradition if they are heavily steeped in it and personally satisfied in it. But, people must see the greatness and goodness of Jesus above all. Do you see the greatness and goodness of Jesus above all?

Bottom Line: Jesus is superior to all and brings joy and great celebration to all those who embrace Him and His kingdom wholeheartedly.