

Faith Working through Love (Luke 5:17-26) GREAT LOVE

Three themes: faith, hope & love are woven throughout Jesus' miracles

Miracle of the paralytic lowered through the roof by four friends has all 3

Jesus had just called the first disciples & healed a leprous man (5:1-15)

Vs 16 tells us, he withdrew into the wilderness and prayed

Vs 17 many came to be healed, & the Lord's power was present to heal

So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door

The Pharisees & Scribes from surrounding towns came to hear him (17)

I. Faith in Jesus Brings Forgiveness & Healing (vv.18,19)

- 1) Great love of the paralytic's four friends
- 2) Conviction and determination of the paralytic's four friends
- 3) Persistent faith working through love
 - a) Their faith was persistent
 - b) Their faith was creative
 - c) Their faith was sacrificial

II. Faithlessness Produces Paralysis and Love-lessness (vv.20-23)

- 1) Forgiveness was a far greater work, for it cost Jesus his life
- 2) He may have been a paralytic due to: guilt of some real /imagined sin
- 3) Jesus pronounced forgiveness to confront his detractors

III. Jesus Substantiates His Authority to Forgive (vv. 24-25)

Jesus' forgiveness of the paralytic & his healing substantiate His authority