

## *Holy Risk Taking*

### *Perspectives*

**Luke 5:20-26**

#### **EXPLORING THE SERMON**

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### **KEY VERSES**

*When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." 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?" Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 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." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."*

#### **REFLECTION**

This week, we explore what we can learn from the perspective of the Pharisees—maybe the most challenging lesson for us. As religious people, we are fooling ourselves if we don't think there is overlap between how we and the Pharisees both operate. Called to protect the temple system, all facets of society were within the Pharisees' control. ***How can you first empathize with the Pharisees, and see their motives as well-intentioned? In what areas of your life are you most like the Pharisees, setting rules and not wanting to give up authority?***

Andy Crouch, in his book [\*Strong and Weak\*](#), demonstrates how human beings are able to flourish through a four-quadrant matrix of Flourishing, Suffering, Withdrawing, and Exploiting. For a society to flourish, a balance of vulnerability and authority must be present. Vulnerability, which involves a willingness to take risks that could jeopardize the gains of those in authority, was not a characteristic of the Pharisees. Just like the paralytic, vulnerability is necessary for miracles to be able to happen. Abram and Sarai, Moses, and Peter are among those who displayed vulnerability and took risks which changed the world. Even Jesus laid aside his cosmic authority aside to show us the reality of salvation. ***What people or organizations have you seen take risks and flourish as a result? In what areas are you inspired or called to be a holy risk taker?***

***Heavenly Father, we trust your good plan for our lives. May we keep our eyes on you, knowing that you desire more for us than an empty life full of rules. Empower us to be holy risk takers, trusting the guidance of your Spirit, with faith that we can flourish and impact the flourishing of those around us. Amen.***