

On The Receiving End

Perspectives

[Luke 5:17-26](#)

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

Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; 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 middle of the crowd in front of Jesus.

REFLECTION

Each week of this new sermon series, *Perspectives*, we'll put ourselves in the shoes of a different character to more fully understand what God is saying to us. In this particular story in Luke, also presented in Matthew and Mark, we'll get a glimpse of the healing ministry of Jesus. This week we'll place ourselves in the position of the paralytic. **Read the full passage, preferably out loud, making note of your senses and emotions. How do you feel as you place yourself in his position?**

We do not know much about the paralytic except that he had four friends who were desperate to get him in to see Jesus. We can only wonder if this effort was his idea or his friends', and if he was a willing accomplice. **What would be the one thing in your life, which if fixed, would transform everything else?**

Human nature guides us to do things as much as we can by ourselves, never wanting to be a burden to others. Our efforts to not be seen as weak end up being a barrier to relationships. In her book *Daring Greatly*, researcher and professor Brené Brown describes how it is easier to experience and understand others people's vulnerability, without being vulnerable ourselves. **In which parts of your life do you most feel the need to "keep up appearances?" Would you consider yourself more often as the friend who carries the stretcher, or the one who needs healing?**

In her book *A Beautiful Disaster*, Marlena Graves reminds us that there are times in our lives when we are "exhausted, lonely, weary, our faith falters, and we are left alone with our own wilderness." When we don't have the emotional capacity to carry ourselves to Jesus, we are the paralytic. **Where do you need to humble yourself and allow your friends to care for you so you can experience healing? In what ways can you seek and learn to receive compassion this week so you can better give it away to others?**

Heavenly Father, give us the courage to trust others with the parts of our lives that are not tidy and put together. We confess our need for Christ and others, and want to be the kind of community that lives honestly. Amen.