

# FRIDAY, AUGUST 27TH

DAILY READING ASSIGNMENT: **Luke 5-8**

## **"Awesome Friends"**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 5:17-26

### **OBSERVATION**

This is an amazing story of an amazing healing. In some unnamed village Jesus was teaching and "the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus." As word spread some friends brought their paralyzed friend to see if Jesus could heal him. But as they approached the house, it was packed. There was no way they would get in through the front door.

So what did they do? They carried their friend up on the roof, removed some tiles (or thatch or whatever it was), and they lowered their friend down to Jesus. He must have been strapped in pretty good to not slide right off the mat (probably first century duct tape).

Beyond the healing that occurred (v. 25 says that in response to Jesus' command to stand and walk, "...the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God"), I am taken by the depth of friendship displayed in this story.

In the ancient world paralysis would have been viewed by many as some sort of divine judgment. Either the paralytic or his parents messed up and he was getting what he deserved. Generally people who were paralyzed, blind, leprosy, etc. did not have many friends. But this guy had four friends who not only stuck with him but went to extreme measures to get him to Jesus.

### **APPLICATION**

These friends paid a price on behalf of their paralyzed friend. They may have endured the scorn of others for hanging out with a guy people would have viewed as being under God's divine wrath. But their friend mattered more to them than what others may have thought.

Wouldn't you love to have friends like that?

Are you that kind of friend to anyone?

Those are two questions worth pondering.

### **PRAYER**

God, life works best in community with fantastic friends who help us along the way. Help me to be that kind of friend to others. Help me to love and care and to reflect your compassion when there is absolutely nothing in it for me. *Amen.*

*S.O.A.P. Entry Author: Nick Twomey*