

Day 22– Wednesday 7 March

Scripture for Prayer

Stilling: Take a few minutes to become still.

God is Present: God is with you. Ask God to inspire your imagination.

Ask for what you desire. What gift, what grace do you want right now?

Read the passage through.

Identify with a character: Choose one of the people in the story and imagine the scene from their point of view.

Set the Scene: Fill in the details to make the story real for you. Imagine the scenery, the weather, the people. Be aware of how you feel.

Luke 5:17-26 (NRSVA)

One day, while Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting nearby (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.

Just then some men came, carrying a paralysed 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. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven you.'

Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, 'Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?' When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven you", or to say, "Stand up and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—he said to the one who was paralysed—'I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.' Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, 'We have seen strange things today.'

Conversation: When you come towards the end of your time of prayer, talk to Jesus, or Martha about what has come up for you. Imagine how they might reply.

Prayer: End with a formal prayer, such as the Lord's Prayer/Our Father

Review of Prayer

Notice how you reacted and felt.

Is this saying anything about you, about the way you see others or God?

Did anything surprise you?

Is there anything you need to pray about in future?

Today's Meditation

The Paralytic

He grinned to himself
As they made a hole in the roof,
Right over the top of his head,
To let the man down at his feet;
'Whatever your sins, they are forgiven',
Said he to the paralysed man.
And they all looked at him,
Amazed at what he had said,
'You can't mean that:
That's blasphemy.
You're not God',
Said a man with religion
Etched on his face.
'How do we know if his sins are forgiven?'
A querulous voice intervened.
'That's the God-bit,
We're not privy to.'
'I'll show you it's true;
I'll tell him to walk
And carry his bed back home.'
'You can't do that!'
'Just watch, then you'll know what I can do.'
The paralysed man rose from the floor,
Picked up his mat
And went back home
On his own two feet.

Patrick Purnell SJ