1. **Luke 5:17-20**

* How did the man on the stretcher get to Jesus to be healed?
* What does Jesus say upon seeing the man on the stretcher?
* What does this say to you about those who intercede for others, do they benefit?
* What does this say to you about intercessory prayer in general?
* **1 John 5:16**
* How do your prayers affect another according to the **Letter of John**?
* How many categories of sin are defined in this Bible passage?
* **2nd Corinthians 1:8-11**
* According to Paul, how helpful can intercessory prayer be, share your thoughts?

1. **Luke 5:21-26**

* How do the Pharisees respond to Jesus remitting the paralyzed man’s sin?
* Why do you believe Jesus healed the paralytic and made the statement “Your sins are forgiven?”
* **Deuteronomy 32:39**
* According to **Deuteronomy** who has the power to “inflict wounds and heal them?”
* **Isaiah 35:4-6**
* What in **Isaiah**, do you believe may have been fulfilled in this story?
* According to **Isaiah**, who is it that is doing these healings?
* **Micah 7:18-20**
* According to **Micah**, who “removes guilt and pardons sin?”
* Are the Scribes & Pharisees in **Luke** correct about who can forgive sin?
* What do you feel these readings reveal about who Jesus Christ is?
* **Matthew 9:6-8**
* What is different about Matthew’s ending and what does it say about “men”?
* **Matthew 16:17-19, Matthew 18:15-18, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, John 20:21-23**
* What do these readings reveal to you about who has the authority to pardon sin?
* **St. Ambrose** (339 AD – 397 AD) *Exposition of The Gospel of Luke 5.10 - 5.11*

“First of all, which we said before, each person must in seeking salvation **summon intercessors** through whom the structure of our life is dissolved, and the lame footprints of our actions are reshaped by the **cure of the heavenly Word**. Then, let there be counselors of the mind who raise the spirit of man, albeit listless with the weakness of the outer body, to the heights. **With their help**, let him be placed **before Jesus**, willing to both raise and humble himself, and be seen as worthy of the Lord’s Grace; for the Lord regards humility, as ‘He has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness’ [Luke 1:48]. ‘When He saw their faith’, it says, Great is the Lord, Who **through** the **merit of some forgives others**, and while **He proves some**, **excuses the faults** of **others**.”

* **St. Cyril of Alexandria** (378 AD – 444 AD) *Commentary on Luke Sermon 12*

”Having seen their faith, not that of the paralytic, **but of the bearers**, for it is **possible for one to be healed by the faith of others**; or, perceiving that the paralytic also believed, **He healed him**. It is possible, however, that the place into which they let down the bed of the paralytic through the tiles was open to the air, so that they would not have to break up the roof. But when the Savior says to him ‘Man, thy sins are forgiven thee,’ He addresses this **generally to mankind**: for those who believe in Him, being healed of the **disease of the soul**, will receive forgiveness of the sins which formerly they had committed. Or He may mean this; I must **heal they soul** before I **heal thy body**, for if this be not done, by obtaining strength to walk, thou dost but sin the more, and even though thou has not asked for this, yet I as God see the maladies of the should, which brought upon thee this disease.”

*Second Quote out of Context*

“It is proved therefore by the very fact, that “the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins.” But of whom says He this? Is it of **Himself**, or **also us**? **Both** the **one and the other** are **true**. For He forgives sins as **being the Incarnate God**, the Lord of the law, and **we too have received from Him this splendid and most admirable grace**. For He hath crowned man’s nature with this great honor also, having even said to the holy apostles, ‘Verily I say unto you, whatsoever things **ye bind on earth shall be bound in heaven**, and whosoever things ye **loose on earth shall be loosed in heaving**.’ And again, ‘Whosesoever **sins ye remit**, they **shall be remitted unto them**, and whosesoever **sins ye bind shall be bound**.’ And what is the occasions on which we find Him speaking to them? It was after he trampled upon the power of death, and **risen from the grave**, when **He breathed upon them**, and said, ‘**Receive the Holy Spirit.**’ For having **made them partakers of His nature**, and bestowed upon them the indwelling of the **Holy Spirit**, He also made them **sharers of His glory**, by **giving them power to both to remit and bind sin**.”