



WEEK TWO : Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

WARM-UP

- What is the most daring stunt you've ever pulled with your friends?
- What is one of the craziest things that's ever happened to you?
- Share a memory of a good friend going above and beyond to help you.

WORD

¹A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that He had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and He preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸Immediately Jesus knew in His spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and He said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So He said to the man, ¹¹"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2: 1-12 (NIV)

WE EXIST TO HELP PEOPLE KNOW GOD, GROW TOGETHER,
DISCOVER PURPOSE, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



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INTRODUCTION

When we read Mark chapter 1, Jesus begins His ministry by proclaiming the Gospel and leading people to repentance. However, it is also intermingled with Jesus' supernatural acts, such as healing and casting out demons. It's hard to tell at this point why the crowds of people are following Him. Is it His teachings or the miracles? As we get to Mark 2, the crowd, or at this point we should call it a mob, catches word that Jesus is returning home, and follows Him there. Among the crowd are four men and their paralytic friend. The crowd in and around the house is so large that the four men are unable to get in to bring their friend to Jesus, so they decide to go big — they climb up on the roof of the house, remove part of the ceiling, and lower their friend down to Jesus.

Mark 2:5 says that Jesus “saw their faith” and said to the paralytic man that his sins were forgiven. Among the crowd of people were teachers of the Jewish law. Upon hearing Jesus's words, it immediately caused them to question the validity of such a statement, because according to the law, only God can pardon sin. Without speaking a single word aloud, Jesus knew what was in their hearts and rebuked them because this is what Jesus had been teaching all along; this was the Good News. In response, Jesus poses a question to them: Which would be easier, forgiveness of sin or healing? Both would require a supernatural feat of God, and to prove His point that He was who He claimed to be, Jesus heals the paralytic man. Upon seeing this, the crowd is amazed again.

DISCUSSION

1. Who would you call on if you had an emergency at 3 a.m.? How are such friendships built?

Mark

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS



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DISCUSSION CONTINUED

2. What do you think was going on in the minds and hearts of the four friends of the paralytic that they would go so far not only to interrupt Jesus's teaching but also damage the home where He was teaching?
3. It's not clear how the paralytic felt about the whole situation. If you were in his shoes, how would you feel? Would you trust your friends?
4. Jesus "saw" the faith of the men in verse 5 and in response, He forgave the paralytic man's sins. Why do you think Jesus chose to forgive the paralytic man's sin rather than simply heal him?

APPLICATION

1. In this story, do you identify with the paralytic, his friends, or the teachers of the law? Why?
2. Like the crowds that followed Jesus, what tends to bring you to the presence of Jesus? Is it to hear Him speak or because you want something from Him? Do you find it easier to ask Jesus for healing from sickness or for forgiveness of sins?
3. Jesus 'saw' the faith of the paralytic man's friends through their aggressive actions. The teachers of the law demonstrated their lack of faith by their skeptical questioning. When faced with challenging problems, do you tend to respond with faith actions or skeptical questions?



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APPLICATION CONTINUED

4. If you were brought to the feet of Jesus today, what kind of healing would you ask for? Physical? Spiritual? Relational? Emotional? Financial? Intellectual?
5. What event in your life has brought you closest to God?

PRAYER

- Pray that you might be bold in helping one another in a way that takes you beyond your convenience and normal comforts.
- Pray for perseverance in believing that you are completely forgiven through repentance in Jesus Christ, and sin does not have the power to paralyze you.

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TRANSFORMING THE CITY, ONE LIFE AT A TIME