

Lessons from a Paralytic

Mark 2:1-12

4/18/04

Intro

As we pick up the story of Jesus in the book of Mark, Jesus has been teaching out in the country, but has recently returned to the city of Capernaum, where he often stayed.

Soon, a crowd had gathered to hear him teach while in a house. The crowd was so great there was no room even to the door.

But this is the story of a man who could not get in to see Jesus, not just because of the crowd, but because he could not walk.

This is also a story of the four friends whose faith the Lord recognized and the lessons we can learn from them as well as from His teaching.

These, then, are the lessons we can learn from the story of Jesus healing the paralytic.

I. The Faith of Four Friends

A. Faith is seen in men of character

- Jesus commended them for their faith.
- Faith is seen in men of character –(they carried their friend)
- **It's not that character causes faith, but faith causes character.**

Hebrews 11:24-25, "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin."

Hebrews 11:6, "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

B. They believed Jesus could help

- Though there are many self help books, there is actually very little help we can accomplish by self-effort.
- **They knew the source of help was in the Lord.**

Psalm 121:1-2, "I will lift up my eyes to the hills; from where shall my help come? My help comes from the LORD, maker of heaven and earth."

C. Their faith took action

- If you think about it, they did a very bold thing.
- **But it was an indication their faith was alive.**
- There is both a faith that is dead, and a faith that is alive.

James 2:19, "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder."

James 2:20, 26 “But are you willing to recognize, that faith without works is useless? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”

II. Jesus is the Friend of Sinners

A. He came to call sinners

- Those who think they are righteous do not ask for help.
- And they also do not receive help.

Mark 2:17, “And hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

B. He forgives their sins

- They didn’t come asking for forgiveness of sins, but they weren’t surprised when He did.
- It was the most important issue in the paralytic.
- Sin is what keeps us from fellowship with God.
- **When He “calls sinners,” He is calling them to have fellowship with God.**

1 Corinthians 1:9, “God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- We were made to have fellowship with God and when we don’t, there is something missing from our lives – we’re unfulfilled.

C. By His kindness sinners change

- Notice he didn’t rebuke the four friends for what they did to the house.

Illus- the father who was wrestling with his boys on the lawn...

- **He ate with “publicans” and sinners.**

Luke 15:1-4, Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” So He told them this parable, saying, “What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”

Illus – Jordi wasn’t afraid to touch the children’s dirtiness (though I was – I once used a clothespin on my nose).

Romans 2:4, “Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?”

III. And He Had Authority as the Son of God

A. Authority to forgive sins

Vs 9

- This caused the Scribes and Pharisees to accuse Him.
- “Which is easier to say...?”
- It is easier to say that sins are forgiven, but to prove it was so – He healed the paralytic.

John 10:37-39, “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.”

Matthew 28:18, And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

B. He taught with authority

- The reason the friends couldn’t get the man to Jesus was because there was a crowd listening to Him teach the Word.
- It was the Word that would bring healing to their soul.

See Mark 1:22- 27

C. But He was also under authority

- This is an important key for us to understand.
- Jesus was under the authority of his Father.

Matthew 8:5-10 - The Centurion’s servant was healed

- **May we also be under authority with all our hearts.**

Matthew 20:25-28, But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Conclusion

The paralytic was healed, picked up his pallet and went home. Jesus heals so we might walk in newness of life.