

Jesus Heals the Man Lowered from the Roof (Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26)

1. How did the friends of the paralyzed man know that Jesus could heal?

2. What was the faith exhibited by the paralyzed man and his friends? How and what did it heal?

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Max7.org): Four faithful friends bring a paralyzed man to Jesus. Jesus forgives his sins and proves he has that authority by healing the man's body as well. This brings opposition because no one has the authority to forgive sin except God. Is Jesus a teacher, a prophet, or someone much greater? This video is based on the Bible story with some additional dialog of the friends. This video is suitable for all ages, and can be used to present the Bible story, and as a discussion starter.

For the teacher's reference, while there are three accounts of this event (Matt 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26), only two provide vivid detail:

And when He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. And being unable to bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof over where He was; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the mat where the paralytic was lying.

And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, get up, pick up your mat, and go to your home." And he got up and immediately picked up the mat and went out before everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this." (Mark 2:1-12, LSB)

And it happened that one day He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem, and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing.

And behold, some men were carrying on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down before Him. But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.

And seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?"

But Jesus, knowing their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get 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 paralytic—"I say to you, get up, and, picking up your stretcher, go home." And immediately he rose up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. And astonishment seized them all and they began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today." (Luke 5:17-26, LSB)

Read Mark 2:1-12 dramatically to the student. Take a moment to have the student count the number of words Jesus said to heal the paralytic (4 vs 9 words) then show the video.

1. How did the friends of the paralyzed man know that Jesus could heal?

By reading preceding contextual verses, one can learn that Jesus started His ministry in the region of Galilee miraculously healing many people, and He was staying in Capernaum which was a town in northern Galilee.

To help the student understand the geography, point out the area of Galilee and the city of Capernaum using the attached map.

2. What was the faith exhibited by the paralyzed man and his friends? How and what did it heal?

Explore with the student the meaning of faith. Take the perspective of the Jewish people who knew the Old Testament. Observe the biblical text and help them see some logical trail left by Jesus. Write them down on a list with some logical sequence as the student makes good observations. Leave blanks for missed observations to maintain a sequence, and fill them when they see the textual evidence. Here is an example:

The Jews knew that only God can miraculously heal diseases / illnesses that doctors cannot.

The Jews saw that Jesus had the power of God to miraculously heal.

When Jesus healed, people glorified God.

Jesus' work of healing established the reality of the invisible God.

Faith is the belief that God is real, and placing a trust in His words. The Jews knew that God made covenantal promises to them.

Faith results in the forgiveness of sin.

Israel During the Time of Jesus (The Gospels)

- Prefects
- Herod Antipas
- Philip
- Syrian Territory

