

“Help for the Helpless”

Read Mark 2:1-12

¹When Jesus had come back to Capernaum several days later, it was heard that He was home. ²And many were gathered, so that there was no longer any room, not even near the door. And He was speaking the Word to them. ³And they came bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. ⁴Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him. And when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying.

⁵And Jesus, seeing their faith said to the paralytic, “Son your sins are forgiven.”

⁶But some of the scribes who were there, reasoned in their hearts; ⁷“Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

⁸Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit of what they were reasoning, said to them, “Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?” ⁹“Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven’; or to say, ‘Arise, take up your pallet, and walk?’” ¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, ¹¹“I say to you, arise, take up your pallet, and go home.”

¹²And the man got up, immediately picked up his pallet, and went out in the sight of everyone. And all were amazed, glorifying God, and saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Study Questions

- 1) What was the setting of this story? In other words, where did it take place? Who were the participants in this story?
- 2) What was it that Jesus said to the man, that had the religious leaders up in arms? Why were they offended? What Jewish Feast did Jesus’ words bring to mind? What did the Ark of the Covenant and its contents have to do with why the leaders were offended?
- 3) Who’s faith was seen and rewarded in the action of lowering the paralytic through the roof? Why did Jesus say He spoke the words, “Arise, take up your palette, and walk”. How does the sermon title speak both to the paralytic’s physical, and also spiritual condition? And to us?

- 4) Why were the 4 men needed to help the helpless man get to Jesus? Today how do we help the helpless and hopeless? What faith do we need to have? What kind of relationship with God are we leading them toward?
- 5) To sum up how we can apply the faith of the 4 men, for the benefit of those whom we want to help today, "Confess Jesus can _____ our helpless loved one, listen for _____, and then do it." How will Jesus respond? Begin today to pray for His help, in applying the faith of the 4 men that we learned about in this passage.